

Speech by Senator Vivienne Poy

Freeze Frame Festival

Winnipeg, Manitoba

May 4, 2003

Thank you for inviting me here today to be part of the closing ceremony for the Freeze Frame Festival this year. Over the past seven years, this Festival has played an important role in the Winnipeg community.

One of the delightful things about films is that we are never too old or too young to enjoy them. They allow us to disappear into fantasy, but at the same time they almost always teach us something about ourselves.

An international film festival like this exposes children, teens, and adults, to other cultures, and ways of living. Viewers learn what it is like to grow up in Asia, in Europe, and other parts of the world, or to live a life surrounded by conflict or war. In this way, Canadians have the chance to learn about our shared humanity. However different we may sometimes appear to be, we are not so different after all. Encouraging understanding in children and teens now, through these films, will help them become tolerant, cosmopolitan adults who are open to the world.

The Freeze Frame Festival also offers students a chance to explore their creativity through workshops as part of their media education in school, to direct films, and to explore a career as film reviewers by sitting on the Youth Jury. As a long-time supporter of the arts in Canada, I believe that film offers a unique medium through which young people can express themselves. I look forward to the films featured in future festivals that will be directed by the students who have had a chance to learn about the art of making films through Freeze Frame.

Now, you all know that Freeze Frame didn't just happen on its own. It takes a network of staff, board and committee members, sponsors, supporters, and partners who make the festival happen year after year.

At this time, I would like to mention two very special people who had the vision and determination to start Freeze Frame for the children of

Winnipeg, and it was also their support that has led to the continuous success of the Festival – Nicole Matiation and Pascal Boutroy.