

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland



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Canada

30 June 2017

Dear Prime Minister

Joyeuse fête du Canada

The opportunity to mark the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation is particularly exciting for us, falling as it does in our Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

The histories of Scotland and Canada are deeply intertwined and the connections between our peoples are deep and enduring and date back long before confederation took place. Scots were amongst the earliest settlers in Canada and the Scottish influence is still noticeable to this day – not least the province of Nova Scotia, where many of the early settlers arrived. Many Canadians to this day still claim Scottish heritage.

I am delighted that Canada will be so strongly represented at this year's Edinburgh festivals. In recent years we have enjoyed a number of performances by Canadian artists and companies, who have contributed enormously to the quality and diversity to the festivals. We very much welcome the presence of Canada House in Edinburgh during August this year, which both acknowledges the strength of the cultural relationship between Canada and Scotland and to celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation.

Ensuring that our relationship with Canada continues to flourish and evolve is one of our main international priorities. We enjoy strong partnerships in areas such as culture, education, research, trade and investment. The growing partnership between the cities of Edinburgh and Montréal as global centres of the performing arts is an excellent example of how such partnerships can be of rich mutual benefit.

My Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown is likely to visit Canada later this year. While details of his visit are still to be finalised, we intend to arrange an event to celebrate the Scottish contribution to Canada's history and the relationship that we now enjoy. I very much hope that you and your colleagues will be able to attend. A formal invitation will follow once the details have been confirmed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicola Sturgeon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

NICOLA STURGEON