



Ron Mock remarks

Commander of the Belgian Order of the Crown ceremony remarks

14th June 2018

Check Against Delivery

Your Excellency, Ambassador Delcorde.

Honorary Consul for Ontario Johnston.

Members of the Board.

I humbly accept this award, on behalf of the entire Teachers' family. For this great honor, I thank you, and through you the people of Belgium and his majesty king Philippe of Belgium.

Partnership is one of the driving values of Ontario Teachers'. It makes things better and it is fundamental to our success.

Partnerships are what allow us to compete, and to make complex investments across the globe. Partnerships are critical to our ability to secure the pensions of the teachers of Ontario for generations to come.

There are few better examples of partnership than the one we have with Belgium and its people. Ontario Teachers' enjoys a strong relationship with Belgium and is a proud investor in the country. As of December 2017, we had over c\$1.7 bn invested in Belgium, with our single largest holding being our 39% stake in Brussels airport.

We are honored to work alongside the Belgian government and the community in Brussels, as shareholders in this critical piece of infrastructure that powers local and regional economies.

The Brussels airport is one of Europe's largest airports, and one of Belgium's largest employers. I understand it is also the world's leading seller of chocolates, selling about 1.5 kg of your finest Belgian chocolate every minute!

In all seriousness, the dedication of the people of Brussels airport, from the highly-skilled workforce to the talented management team, is inspiring. This was

only reinforced during the horrific terror attacks of March, 2016, and in their aftermath.

We were saddened and shocked by these events and all those impacted by this tragedy remain in our thoughts.

The airport has rallied, though, collaborating with authorities to implement additional security measures that go well beyond standard requirements. Last year 25 million passengers passed through its gates. That's a remarkable achievement, and a tribute to the resilience of its people.

We are committed to the ongoing success of the airport and to ensuring it continues as a strong driver of the Belgian economy. We are committed to growing our already strong relationship with Belgium, and in helping to spur economic growth and create new opportunities for its people.

Your Excellency Ambassador Delcorde, allow me to thank you again personally for playing such a critical role in this relationship. We are honored to have you here at our Toronto headquarters today.

Thanks to your work, Canada's relationship with Belgium has prospered and our two countries have grown closer together even this year.

In March I had the honor of meeting His Majesty, when I attended a lunch to mark the first state visit to Canada from a sitting Belgian king for more than 30 years, and I have met with Prime Minister Michel on two occasions.

I end where I began. Today's honor from the Belgian people is truly humbling.

Your Excellency Ambassador Delcorde and Honorary Consul Johnston, thank you on behalf of the whole Teachers' family.