

## Speaking Notes for Désirée McGraw

Tony's Reception after the Annual General Meeting

03 November 2017

Tonight, we honour our out-going Chairman, Tony Macoun for his years of selfless devotion to the mission and values of Pearson College, the United World Colleges movement and to the global UWC community.

Before doing so, I also wish to acknowledge and thank [Dr. Jean Drouin](#), our outgoing vice-chair and chair of the Advancement Committee of the Board, who has consistently provided counsel and enthusiastic support. Among Jean's many attributes, as an alumnus (YR 15), he has offered the perspective of one who has experienced the Pearson culture as a youth and is able to identify with the aspirations of students, while, as a successful entrepreneur, bringing understanding of the expectations of Pearson donors and supporters.

Also, my gratitude to **Nina Moroso**, Board Secretary and Governance Officer extraordinaire, who undertook my 'education' as the newbie President of Pearson. Nina, as you know, is now working full-time as [UWC National Committee of Canada \(NCC\)](#) Coordinator— and they are very lucky to have her!

On behalf of all of you – and the entire Pearson community – I extend a warm welcome to our in-coming Chair, [the Honourable Anne McLellan](#), who brings to us a valuable trove of skills, knowledge and *savoir faire* along with her passion for education and Pearson College.

**That said, this evening is all about Tony**, who has devoted his entire professional life to leading schools and guiding youth in Canada and overseas.

As Director (Principal) of Pearson College from 1986 to 1993, Deputy Director General of the [International Baccalaureate Organisation](#) from September 1993 to August 1994 and, from 1994 to 2000, and Founding Principal of [Red Cross Nordic United World College](#), for over 30 years Tony has never wavered in his devotion to the UWC movement, mission, values, and community.

Tony came out of retirement to take on the volunteer position of chairing Pearson's Board at a critical time in the College's history, putting in countless hours and selflessly contributing his skills, network, experience, and steadfast leadership.

His wisdom, guidance and support have been invaluable to me personally and to the entire Pearson community.

Thanks to Tony's leadership, Pearson College now has a Strategic Plan that will guide us to 2023. It is titled **RENEWING A NATIONAL TREASURE** –

I might add that Tony is a national resource who needs no renewing!

He will be greatly missed and leaves large shoes to fill. But we are confident that he and **Ann, his wonderful wife of 50 years**, will often return to Pedder Bay and that we can all count on his counsel for many years to come.

I know the entire Pearson community joins me in wishing Tony “fair winds and following seas”.