

STEPHEN J. HARPER

December 10, 2021

c/o Mr. Éric G-L Gagnon  
Director of Parliamentary Affairs  
Office of the Hon. Tony Loffreda, CPA  
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[letter sent digitally via Mr. Éric G-L Gagnon]

Dear friends,

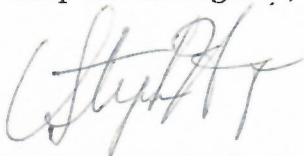
I am pleased to convey my sincere congratulations and good wishes to Senator Oliver and everyone participating in the official launch of his autobiography, "A Matter of Equality: The Life's Work of Senator Don Oliver". The timing of this digital gathering and fireside chat is particularly well-chosen, considering today, December 10<sup>th</sup>, is also the day we mark the anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with Don Oliver over the course of many years and therefore know first-hand his strong legacy of public service. During the course of his career, Don made outstanding and continuing contributions on matters of diversity and inclusion. He led by example, was never afraid to speak out, and I know served as an inspiration to many, both in our Conservative Caucus and beyond. He also was a strong advocate for government ethics and accountability. I regularly sought and valued Don's counsel in these areas, and note his outstanding work as Chair of the Senate's Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs that oversaw passage of the groundbreaking Federal Accountability Act in 2006.

Don accompanied me on a number of important official delegations during my time in office, including a bilateral visit to the White House in 2013, as well as the funeral for Nelson Mandela that same year. At the same time, he made important contributions to other organizations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, having served as Chair of the IPU's 2012 Assembly, the biggest gathering of parliamentarians in Canada's history.

Don, it is important that your experience and perspective be accessible to the generations of parliamentarians that follow in your footsteps. I congratulate you again on having completed this significant project.

Warm personal regards,



The Rt. Hon. Stephen J. Harper, P.C., C.C.  
22<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister of Canada