



THE PREMIER  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA  
B3J 2T3

April 20, 2006

Can D. Le, Ph.D.  
Commissioner for External Affairs, Vietnamese Canadian Federation  
Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project Leader  
249 Rochester Street  
Ottawa, ON K1R 7M9

Dear Dr. Le:

Congratulations to you as leader of the Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project – an important and very worthwhile undertaking.

I am pleased to offer you this letter of support for the project.

As a former minister responsible for immigration in Nova Scotia, I know well the tremendous economic, social and cultural contributions newcomers make to our communities. As a province with a comparatively small population, our ability to attract and retain immigrants is critical to sustaining the quality of life Nova Scotians have come to enjoy.

In January 2005, the government of Nova Scotia released a five-year immigration strategy that aims to increase the number of immigrants moving into Nova Scotia. In our first year, we created legislation to set up a dedicated office of immigration with responsibility for working with partners to attract more immigrants and help them settle here. We recruited a multicultural, multilingual, energetic team of professionals to work with partners in implementing the strategy's deliverables. We doubled the amount of money available to help immigrants settle in Nova Scotia, and we strengthened our partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, benefitting from their expertise, resources and support.

We've accomplished a great deal yet recognize there is much more to do. It is in working with our partners, including communities such as yours, that we will reach our immigration goals.

I wish you the very best of success with the museum project, which aims to help the Vietnamese community, young and old alike, indeed all Canadians, understand the hardships faced by the Vietnamese as they struggled to leave their birthplace and make a new home in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney MacDonald".

Rodney J. MacDonald