

Secretary of State for Scotland describes the "New Scotland"

On October 23, the Foundation, in conjunction with the University of Guelph and the British Consulate-General, hosted a lunch in honour of the Right Honourable Helen Liddell, the Secretary of State for Scotland in the UK Parliament. The following is an excerpt from her speech.

Two years ago Scotland established its own parliament for the first time in 300 years. Prior to that, the job of the Secretary of State (there's been one for the past 116 years, and I'm the first woman incidentally) was responsible for running what would be the equivalent of about 13 different departments of the United Kingdom government. Now my job is to work with the new Scottish Parliament to look after the areas of power that are still reserved for Westminster -- macroeconomic policy, defence, foreign affairs, pensions, social security and to be the voice of Scotland in Tony Blair's cabinet. I'm also the representative of that cabinet in Scotland.

The new Scottish Parliament has given a great boost to the Scottish economy and its morale. The logjam in getting Scottish legislation through Westminster is no longer an issue. Unemployment is at an all-time low and we now have one of the highest percentages per capita in the world of students enrolled in university.

Scotland has a very important market here in Canada. Canadians bought some 239 million pounds worth of goods and services from Scotland. But it's not just manufactured goods that are important -- tourism is crucial to our economy -- 150,000 Canadians came to Scotland last year and we want to welcome even more!

I've got the impression that some Canadians of Scottish extraction still have a picture of the old "smokestack" image of

Scottish industry. But now it is very much based on a "high tech" economy. Science-based industries such as biotechnology (remember Dolly the sheep was cloned in Scotland!), computer software, imaging and animation are thriving. 90 percent of the computers used in Europe are made in Scotland. Our fashion industry is huge (our cashmere is the best in the world). You only have to look at the Paris and Milan catwalks and you will see the best of Scottish fashion products there. Scotland is a vibrant and exciting place that now wants to do even more business with Canada.

We want to use all people of Scottish descent in Canada to open doors for us to ensure that the bond of friendship between the two nations is strengthened even further to our mutual advantage. My message to all Scots in Canada is to come and be part of this exciting new venture.

Calgary Tartan Design Competition

The City of Calgary has an extensive Scottish Heritage and takes its name from Calgary Bay on the Isle of Mull in Scotland. This area had family connections for Colonel James MacLeod of the North West Mounted Police, who actually named the city.

Over the years, many Scots or their descendents have played a prominent role in the growth of the city and in December 2000, the Calgary City Council endorsed the development of a Calgary tartan to recognize their contributions.

The St. Andrew - Caledonian Society, Calgary's oldest Scottish cultural organization, was asked by Council to undertake the task of coordinating this initiative. The Society was formed in 1884 and its first President, George Murdoch, became the first Mayor of the Town of Calgary.

The Society invites design



Rt. Hon. Helen Liddell in an enthusiastic discussion with Neil Carragher of the Canadian-Scottish Philharmonic Foundation

proposals from interested members of the public which will be evaluated by a selection committee, and the selected design will be proposed to City Council for adoption as the Calgary tartan. The selection committee consists of nine volunteer members of diverse backgrounds who represent a broad spectrum of the community.

The winning entry will receive \$1,000 at a presentation award to commemorate the special event.

Over the years, the City of Calgary has adopted a number of symbols. The city crest and flag come immediately to mind. The Society hopes to see widespread participation in this competition, with the end result being a tartan that citizens of Calgary, regardless of origin, can wear with pride.

Anyone interested in submitting a design may do so providing they are willing to waive the copyright of their design in the event that it is selected as the winning entry.

Please keep in mind that the primary use of a tartan is in producing a woven fabric. As such, only a maximum number of seven colours can readily be accommodated by commercial weaving looms without causing undue manufacturing problems.

Design proposals must be submitted to the St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary, PO Box 82003, Scarboro Postal Outlet, 1400 - 12th Avenue SW, Calgary AB, T3C 0N0 and be clearly marked *Calgary Tartan Proposal* on the outside of the envelope. Information on the competition is also posted on the Society's website at <http://www.standrew-caledonian.ab.ca>

Ed: Thanks to SSF member David Fionn Clarke of Calgary for letting us know about this.



Rt. Hon. Helen Liddell, in conversation with 1998 Scot of the Year and former CEO of the Royal Bank of Canada, John Cleghorn