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**PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

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TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Premier ministre du Canada): Votre excellence, distingués invités, collègues parlementaires et chers récipiendaires.

I want to begin by thanking Her Excellency the Governor General for her graciousness in hosting the 2007 Outstanding Achievement Awards here at Rideau Hall. I'm pleased to have this opportunity today to recognize some of the most talented members of the public service of Canada. The presentation of the public service's highest honour is especially relevant at this time.

Notre gouvernement, avec le greffier du Conseil privé, a entrepris un programme de renouvellement de la fonction publique afin d'exploiter les forces immenses de la fonction publique du Canada. Ce renouvellement assurera que les institutions politiques du Canada continuent de répondre efficacement aux besoins des Canadiens et des Canadiennes, ainsi qu'à leurs attentes. À cette fin, nous devons continuer à attirer des gens talentueux vers la fonction publique du Canada et reconnaître ceux et celles qui manifestent un talent et des efforts exceptionnels.

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This year's recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award have earned this recognition. The leadership of Michael Horgan has helped Canada develop policies related to increasing energy efficiency, improving indoor air quality and of course, the development of a comprehensive policy framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. I should just mention that Michael has worked closely with the cabinet on this, an enormous undertaking. We have been enormously well served in the press by those efforts.

À titre d'ambassadeur du Canada en Thaïlande, Denis Comeau a représenté le Canada lors du tsunami de 2005. Sa réaction calme et réfléchi face à cette tragédie a inspiré les gens qui ont travaillé avec lui pour localiser les 3000 Canadiens et Canadiennes à risque.

Dr. Christina Cameron has been a tireless advocate for the preservation and promotion of Canada's built heritage. She has worked with all levels of government to create a registry of these monuments, landmarks and buildings throughout Canada, and to develop guidelines for their use and preservation. Phil Emmettson has coordinated Canada's response to ten cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. I didn't know if I'd get that out. (LAUGHTER) It's called BSE. (LAUGHTER) He developed Canada's coordinated response to ten cases of BSE in the West as well as two massive

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outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry in British Columbia. His strong leadership helped maintain the confidence of Canadians and our trading partners in Canada's food supply. Dr. Calvin Wayne Linwall has devoted his career to helping farmers realize the economic and environmental benefits of conservation tillage and raised awareness of the value of conservation tillage as a carbon sink worth credit in the emerging carbon emissions market.

Je tiens à remercier aussi les membres du comité de sélection cette année pour leurs efforts afin d'identifier ces récipiendaires extraordinaires. Et j'aimerais conclure, remerciant tous les membres de la fonction publique pour leur travail assidu et le dévouement.

No government, no government of any partisan stripe can maintain and build a strong, united and secure Canada without the assistance of a professional, capable public service committed to the public interests. The recipients of these Outstanding Achievement Awards owe much of their success to the networks and to the teams that they have all inspired, all members of the outstanding public service of Canada. Thank you.  
(APPLAUSE)

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