

Closing Remarks

Canadian Military and Veteran Families Leadership Circle

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, OTTAWA, ONTARIO - JANUARY 29, 2016

Closing remarks delivered by

Victor Duret, Vanier Institute of the Family Board Chair

If I could make a personal comment, as a partner in an accounting firm, KPMG, in my other life, a day like today makes me realize how lucky I am and what a simple little world I spend my time in.

All of you in different ways are incredibly inspiring in how you serve or have served and in what you deal with and how you care so much. Thank you.

On behalf of my co-host representing *military and Veterans and family*, LGen Christine Whitecross, General (ret'd) Walter Natynczyk and I would like to:

- Thank Dan and Nora for co-chairing a fantastic job and, without playing favourites, if I could just say publicly how proud we, at the Vanier Institute, are of the work Nora and her team do. The difference you are making is important. Thank you.
- Thank you all for coming to this year's *Leadership Circle*.
- It has been an extraordinary day of *sharing leading and promising practices* of partnership and collaboration. Everywhere you looked, there were engaged conversations going on.
- I'd like to thank you, the Members, for making a commitment to the *Leadership Circle*. And to those of you who are new to our Circle this year, thank you.
- As Nora mentioned, I'd also like to encourage those organizations that have not yet joined to consider completing the membership form you will find in your package. You can leave it with Marie-Andrée on your way out or email it to military@vanierinstitute.ca.
- The next meeting of this *Leadership Circle* will be on the third or fourth Friday in January 2017, in Ottawa, and I hope that all our new attendees decide to join us next year.

I hope you agree this event was a powerful example of how Canadians are standing *beside* military and Veteran families while military families themselves stand *behind* their loved ones who are serving, or who have served, their country.

It has been an honour for us to co-host this year.

Building engagement is key to this initiative. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, co-hosting or sponsoring next year's meeting, please speak to Nora or Sara.

My test is to always ask myself: would General and Madame Vanier be proud of us? They would be!

Thank you. Have a wonderful evening. See you next year!