Kingston and the Islands Conservative Nomination Speech
February 2011

Aclimations are a plan for failure. Today you have a choice, and that is the very essence of Democracy. You must choose the candidate who can beet the Liberal Ted Hsu. You don't have to worry about quotas, you must choose the Conservative best qualified to fight and lead Kingston and the Islands back into government.

I volunteered to fight and lead underfire for six months in Afghanistan. And I'll tell you, as much as our military men and women might wish it, that is not a job that can be replaced by a computer.

I see Pastor James here today and I just wanted to tell you, as I started my trip home from my deployment we flew into an early winter storm. We had to avoid insurgents with rocket launchers, at the same time as we experienced massive turbulence. After being bounced and jolted around for a while I leaned towards a Chaplain who was sitting across from me and asked, "Can't you do something about this?" She shot back, "I'm with sales, not management."

While I was in Kabul, the Prison Farm issue came to a head. I could only observe from a distance, but I saw a government making tough choices in the national interest, and sometimes that is what leadership demands. Of course, our MP was of little help because his party saw more benefit in fanning the flames than in trying to do what is best for the residents of Kingston and the Islands. Since I grew up on a farm, I'm more interested in our hard working and underappreciated farmers than in prisoners, so I will fight to ensure we don't lose our critical mass of agricultural activity.

Our party is trying to rekindle in this country the ideals and principles that, over a century, took us from being a quiet colony to a respected independent voice of compassion and reason on the world stage. Today we are a nation of 34 million people with a pedigree that includes bloodlines from every corner of the globe. And we have shed that blood in almost every corner of the world, usually in the defence of someone else's freedom.

But our national demographics are changing. We need to attract more immigrants to our country to keep our population stable, let alone growing. The imagrants who built this country came here

and worked for years before reuniting with their immediate, not their whole, family, and they, like my grandparents who arrived from Denmark just after the First World War, made sure they could support their families before bringing them here.

There are other ways we can help sustain our society. The Canadian birth rate continues to fall. I stand before you today because my birth mother chose to carry me to term and courageously gave me into adoption so that I could have a better life than she was going to be able to provide, but most importantly so I could have a life.

Now I know my survival is a cause of regret for some, but the supportive and compassionate adoption systems that allowed me to survive 45 years ago have atrophied as the number of abortions and teenaged single parents have risen. Rebuilding those systems, and bringing back the attitude that adoption is a courageous, loving, and socially responsible option is a critical part of building and strengthening Canadian society.

Even a country as rich as ours cannot go on forever borrowing against the future; leaving a legacy of debt for future generations, and raising taxes that erode the savings and standard of living of this generation. As an owner of a design and manufacturing company, and member of our Chamber of Commerce, in the 1990s I learned first hand the difficulties our young entreprenures and businesses face on a daily basis. We must fight to eliminate needless government red-tape, spend taxpiers money prudently, and let the world know Canadians are open for business.

I ask for your vote today so that we can start leading Kingston and the Islands back into government.

Today you must chose the Conservative who is best able to put the boots to the Liberal Hsu.

I ask for your vote so we can win this fight together.