A Strong Voice in Our Time: Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire.

I learned that Lieutenant General Dallaire was coming to Edmonton and that, to meet him, I decided to take up the challenge of submitting my thoughts. Since I am from Rwanda, I know Lieutenant General Dallaire, as a man who risked his life in the genocide of 1994. He is one of our heroes. He entered the history of our country through the front door. We met him, initially, through the media and came to know him as a compassionate and modest man with a grand heart.

He witnessed the terrors of history in Rwanda. He never forgot, or turned his back, on our struggle. That is why the survivors of the genocide are comforted knowing he has understood the agony of this awful moment.

He has continued to work, to alleviate the violence against children in times of war. War robs children of their days of innocence. His commitment to this noble cause encourages and demands that we all work so that those little ones, turned into crusaders, may be restored to childhood and the sweetness of a normal life.

Tomorrow, we need to build schools, and find educators, those who can help heal the hearts and minds of children, so that society may be reoriented, away from the culture of death, to culture of life.

Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire`s life has been marked by the terrors of history known in Rwanda and elsewhere. We all share in the failure to stop the course of genocide. What is singular with our friend Lieutenant General Dallaire, is that he has witnessed and understood these events and speaks a living word to us about our own time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as my pleasure to present to you, Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire.