



His Worship Mike Savage
Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality
Unveiling of the Lebanese Emigrant Statue
Saturday, September 22nd, 2018
Halifax Waterfront

Remarks:

Good morning, it's a pleasure to be here among friends on this very special occasion.

- **His Beatitude Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi, Cardinal Patriarch of Antioch** – we are so honoured to have you here with us to unveil this important statue, and I look forward to seeing you this evening at a banquet in your honour at Our Lady of Lebanon.
- **Mr. Wadih Fares and Mrs. Cathy Fares** – We are incredibly fortunate to have good, community-minded citizens like the Fares's who represent not just the Lebanese community but all of us in the best possible light. It is because of their generous sponsorship that we now have this statue to enjoy and reflect on.
- **Others...**

This statue honours the early Lebanese settlers who established a presence in this country 140 years ago.

These early settlers brought with them the values of faith, perseverance and loyalty and established enduring friendships in their new home.

Over nearly a century and a half, the Lebanese population in Canada and here in Nova Scotia have made incredible contributions to our cultural and economic life.

We need people to grow our population and our economy, and indeed nearly half of our population growth in recent years can be attributed to newcomers from another country.

By and large, immigrants are more likely to have university educations, including advanced degrees, and are more likely to start their own business.

Nowhere is that more evident than with the Lebanese population.

Whether through business, arts, sports, technology, education, medicine, philanthropy or politics, the Lebanese community has made a lasting and positive contribution to the culture of the Halifax region.

Your community represents the third largest immigrant group in Halifax, behind immigrants from the UK and the US. and your contributions to the city's economy are astounding.

Developers from the Lebanese community are literally building Halifax: **The total value of completed and ongoing projects by members of this community between 2005 and 2015 was estimated at \$4 billion.**

\$4 BILLION.

When we combine that with the other areas of Lebanese commerce – including a significant food service industry – Lebanese businesses generate about 2,800 jobs a year.

Through their hard work and through the determination of successive waves of new Lebanese Canadians, your community has found a special place in Halifax, and it's fair to say that we would not be the city we are today without the hard work of the Lebanese community.

The history of our region includes many cultures; from the Mi'kmaw people to the British colonists, Black Loyalists, and the more than one million immigrants from around the globe who entered Canada through Pier 21.

But, years from now when history reflects upon what made us a modern, thriving city, I expect there will be a special chapter on the contributions of our Lebanese community.

Indeed, they will be able to point to this beautiful statue and its prominent place on the Halifax Waterfront to illustrate just how important these contributions are.

On behalf of the municipality, I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Lebanese community on this special day.

Thank you!