

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY JULIAN PAYNE
TO 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2016 AT THE NEW WORLD HOTEL, MAKATI CITY**

Ambassador and Madame Reeder
Trustees and Governors of CanCham,
Members and friends of CanCham

This is a sad week to welcome you to our 2016 AGM: It is sad with the very recent terrible and tragic death of our friend and Trustee John Ridsdel still fresh in our minds. And it is with a sense of foreboding given the situation of another fellow Canadian Robert Hall.

We had to make a difficult decision on whether to reschedule the AGM or not. We concluded that we should proceed as scheduled but with a modified program because:

- It would provide us with an immediate occasion as CanCham to remember John
- It would provide an occasion to ask and answer questions on such situations
- It would demonstrate we cannot be intimidated or disrupted by actions of terrorists
- And, knowing John, he would not want us to be intimidated or deterred by terrorists

We agreed to proceed with this meeting in two successive parts:

- First to honor John, to share our grief, and to remember what a great person he was
- Second to proceed with business as required ... as John would have wanted us to do

So I welcome you all and appreciate the high turnout even on such a sad and foreboding occasion.

Let me say a few words about John. He had a natural gregariousness and inquisitiveness. He was a man of many interests with many friends. I suspect that, as his friends, we all have somewhat different recollections and reflections about him. Let me briefly share with you mine.

Like John, I was born in England and immigrated to Canada. And like John, I attended the London School of Economics. However my main associations with him have been:

- As a Trustee with a great shared interest in and supporter of CanCham
- Having worked in advocating environmentally and socially responsible mining
- Having a fascination with communications using modern technology

In his role as a Trustee: he was joy to work with and served you well since 2012:

- He was a Trustee of few but always relevant words
- He was shrewd about the broader and longer terms implications of issues
- He was endowed with a healthy sense of humor and did not taking himself too seriously

In my concluding reflection about John I believe there is an important lesson for us. John was businessman who for most of his career worked on the economic frontiers in building business in such places as Algeria, Pakistan and Myanmar as well as in Mindanao in the Philippines. He realized the inherent risks that had to be faced in building business in these environments. He did not let fear or risk deter, inhibit or restrain him in doing business.

As we in CanCham aspire "... to represent, support and promote Canada-Philippines business interests." I hope we do not let the terrible and tragic circumstances of his death deter or inhibit or restrain our efforts to expand Canada-Philippines trade and investment in the Philippines ... and indeed everywhere in the Philippines as reasonable prudence may allow.

Thank you