

Experience 150 & Me Youth Reception September 25th 2016

On September 25th 2016, I had the honour of being invited to a panel discussion with the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, organized by Experiences Canada 150 & Me. To commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary, 150 young inspired and inspiring Canadians were selected to attend a discussion focusing on opportunities and challenges facing Canada's future.



The delegates came from a variety of sectors, ranging from activists, entrepreneurs, to Olympians. I was surprised that there were little to few people with visible disabilities present, which raises the question of the accessibility and inclusion for youth with disabilities. Opportunities need to be given for those to become leaders in their communities. The key take-home message from the panel discussion was that in order for us to make a difference, we must first believe in ourselves – each small step we take matters significantly in the end. Hence I say the same to all hard of hearing youth in Canada, believe in what you can do and share that with the world.

Following that was a reception hosted by the Prime Minister of Canada in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Luckily I was the first group to speak with Prince William and of course I brought up Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and the work of BC Youth Peer Support Program to empower youth in reaching their potentials. Prince William wish us the very best of luck 😊!

It was certainly a memorable day, not just meeting the Royals, but meeting other inspiring leaders who are also working to build a better future for Canada.



More pictures from the day



150 youth delegates gather for the panel discussion



Prime Minister & Their Royal Highnesses



Me with the Honorable Minister of Canadian Heritage, Mélanie Joly



Taking one more photo as a memento