

Haiku

Leading from the Rear
the mayor greets us with:
“welcome to your city hall.”
to serve, know context.

Till Until
each year 12,000
choose Ottawa as their home.
many seeds to plant.

Fertile
in the centre’s core
the family has gathered
to harvest ripe fruit.

Friendly Shores, Open Doors

to raise a hand and swear a pledge
after traversing the seas to reach these shores
means strength inside and eyes that see
new ways ahead to be explored
in this city that stands at the centre
the pounding beat of our hearts pace change
to stand as an example for the whole nation
of how collaboration helps to engage
a strategy to uplift all people who live
within these borders has taken root
to open doors and arms to others
from lands afar we need to recruit
through immigration the city replenishes
talent pools that flow strong and deep
into the lifeblood that feeds its future
and permits it to lead, advance, compete
but it begins with words of fidelity
to the idea on which Canada stands
that focuses minds on living and working together
in our home on native land.

Lyric Chamber

to look into the faces
of youth with open hearts and diaphragms
and hear a message so primal
the blood dances
is to be reminded
that this city will soon be theirs
and the stewards who are
currently in charge
would do well to listen as intently
to the sound of their song
as to the echo of their shouts
for attention to decrease tension
and build a better future.

Six Small Questions

who where what when why how
six small questions
but the answers elude
because when others don't listen
then can one conclude
that the powers that be
can't be moved from a mood
to exclude instead of include
and reach for the sky
remove pretext from context
on which we rely
take the risk to challenge risk
and reap the reward
see the value of diversity
that once was ignored
realize the global situation
won't stand still
and we fall behind when we
don't value the skill
of the immigrants already here
and those who will come
so if we're going to keep pace
then include everyone
want to ask the proper questions
learn how to forge
relationships, collaborations
bridging over the gorge

that separates understanding
from what you think you know
so open ears to possibility
of where we can go
six small questions
and the answers commence
when everyone is treated
with true significance
when others start to listen
then can one conclude
that the changes we see
can shift our core attitudes
to include instead of exclude
we reach for the sky
remove pretext from context
and then we can fly.

Infusion

cultures shape peoples
how many peoples are we?
ideally, just one.

Pipe Dreams

social cohesion is like a city's water pipes
out of sight and fully integrated
into the physical fabric of city life every day
but when a pipe bursts, the impact
spreads to the surface and disrupts
inconveniences and taxes patience
the repair work must be immediately undertaken
and once completed the city returns
to its regular flow
and so do the pipes

when a city is socially cohesive, opportunity
flows naturally to its every corner
and makes for a liveable environment
where everyone can engage and participate
without fear, apprehension or discrimination
and all are treated as valued equals
but there are leaking pipes below the surface
some are obvious, others deep but still noticeable
a map of the system is critical to find them all

and plug them quickly, effectively and strategically
to leave the task incomplete imperils our foundations
eventually creates sinkholes that explode violently
and leave ugly scars on the terrain of our lives

the natural flow of our city
is maintained through constant diligence
attention to detail
concern for every corner of the system
and like pipes that can be broken
people can be broken too
fortify them by building them up
make sure each is used to fullest potential
in this way
they facilitate the flow of cohesion
hidden in plain sight
and fully integrated
into the physical fabric of city life
every day.

Motto Model

Ottawa's future
looks vibrant and prosperous
when we act as one.

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