

Fariborz Khasha

The Journey Continues

Address to the New Notaries, June 8, 2004

What a journey! It feels good to be on this side of the gate finally, doesn't it?

Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Fariborz Khasha and I am honoured to have been assigned by my friends and colleagues the task of making a brief presentation to this wonderful gathering.

In addition to being a new Notary, I am also a fascinated admirer of a 13th century Persian philosopher and lyricist by the name of Jalaladdin Rumi. Exploring Rumi's poetry is a hobby of mine; the other day I came across one of his poems that struck me as a very fitting depiction of the state of affairs we as new BC Notaries of eight centuries later are faced with. Let me share this poem with you.

It is your turn now.

It is your turn now.
You waited, you were patient.
The time has come,
For us to polish you.
We will transform your inner pearl
You're a gold mine,
Did you know that,
Hidden in the dirt of the earth?

It is your turn now
To be placed in fire.
Let us burn to ashes your impurities.

Although we can safely assume that today's installation ceremony did bring our audacious journey of the past two years to a conjunctural end, our real expedition, characterized by baptism in fire in Rumi's words, will only begin from this point onward. And this is a challenge that I believe every one of us is anxiously and confidently ready to embrace.

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We should be and are, in fact, prepared to carry the banner of the profession forward. We are now a much stronger bunch than we were at the start of this endeavour. All those ups and downs of the last two years where we managed to hang onto the roller coaster, those sleepless nights and those not-so-infrequent moments of self-doubt and common fears we all felt and the hopeful reassurances and confidence boosts we received from one another—all that, plus the extensive learning process we've gone through, have



interacted and transformed us into a cohesive group of resilient individuals, an assembly of fresh and determined Notaries with a pledge and a mission.

I feel honoured to speak on behalf of this group and I am pleased to offer a very heartfelt thanks to all of our educators and counsellors, in particular Marny Morin and Rick Evans, without whose invaluable mentorship and contribution to our educational development we would not be here today. And let me say that one of the encouraging motives of this group, in our eagerness to get started with the real practice, is the very heart-warming fact that Marny and Rick and a whole lot of other experienced Notaries will be out there to guide us through the initial phase of the very rough road that lies ahead.

Again, speaking on behalf of all the newly installed Notaries, I wish to reiterate that we are profoundly aware of the precious privilege granted to us by the laws of this province to serve its people. I want to reassure our President, Leta Best, and the entire leadership of The Society that all 16 men and women who, as of today officially joined the ranks of The Society, take our pledge very seriously and will

uphold that pledge at any cost and under all circumstances. That our conduct, both in professional and personal life, will be such as to enhance and promote at all times the trusted tradition of BC Notaries, a treasure that has been faithfully guarded for more than a century-and-a-half by our past peers and staunchly so by The Society since 1926.

I have also been asked by my colleagues to express every single new Notary's sincere appreciation of the patience and understanding displayed by our spouses, partners, and children over the last many months when we, as wives, husbands, partners, or parents, had to devote a major portion of our time and attention to the rigorous studying requirements of the Notaries Preparatory Course that would place us where we are today. Thank you for your indispensable part in making a dream come true.

I would like to end on a personal note. For my family and I, this challenge has been one of the most satisfying experiences of our

lives. I tried to capture the essence of my feeling in this regard in a "thank you" letter I wrote to the Executive Director Wayne Braid shortly after he called to give me the thumbs-up on the Statutory Exams results. Here is what I said in that letter:

In the various stages of my life, I may have received a dozen or so congratulatory remarks from others as a result of occasional achievements, but none has meant so much to me as the one offered by you on behalf of The Society last week. You could only imagine what a significant turning point this accomplishment represents for me and my family. Less than seven years after immigrating to Canada from the other end of the world and making this beautiful and generous land our home, it was proven once again—and this time in a major way—that the difficult choice my wife and I had to make in the mid-1990s was, in fact, a wise and prudent decision. My success in overcoming all the odds and being accepted in the ranks of a prestigious

and highly admired and sought-out profession in the province is another attestation of the fact I had been professing to my children, that Canada is a land of opportunities and if you're determined in pursuit of a realistic and honourable objective here, no matter how high a goal that might be, it can be achieved by a combination of single-mindedness of purpose and hard work.

Thank you all and good luck, everyone, with the rest of the journey. See you out there in the front lines. ▲

Fariborz (Fred) Khasha was commissioned as a BC Notary Public in May of this year; he will be practising in the District of West Vancouver. Fred is also a Certified Translator in the Farsi/English language combination and is accredited as such by the federal and provincial governments.

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