

David Watts



On Behalf of the Graduating Class of BC Notaries Public of 2006

This morning's installation ceremony was the culmination of the formal part of the Notary education process.

We come from varied backgrounds, life experiences, and different geographic and ethnic communities. What we have in common is that each of us has chosen a common path.

We have found a profession based on utmost integrity and a Tradition of Trust. What we hope to bring to this profession is our commitment to do our best at everything we do. Over the past 18 months—while juggling work and family responsibilities—we completed 42 weekly assignments and wrote 6 final exams in 3 days. We would not be here if we had not given our very best to this process.

On behalf of the graduating class of 2006, it gives me great pleasure

and pride to extend our commitment of excellence to our new-found profession—our practice as Notaries Public.

I recognize we have some pretty big shoes to fill but am confident in the abilities of each and every one of us. I know I speak directly on each new Notary's behalf when I say we have been treated with the utmost respect and with welcoming arms from the general membership of existing Notaries.



1. Emilia Luca; 2. Jennine Fitterer; 3. Lisa Stevenson; 4. Olive McLean; 5. Swinderpal Sarao; 6. Wendy Shum; 7. Lu Hong; 8. David Watts; 9. Allan McDonald; 10. Andrea Agnoloni; 11. Jimmy Chong; 12. Tom Anderson, 13. Tony Liu

In attending the Fall Conference and Spring Seminar, various Vancouver Chapter events, and other seminars, we have met many members of The Society of Notaries Public of BC. In each case we have been treated with courtesy, provided much valuable advice, and always, always invited to call with any questions we may have about opening our business, how to deal with challenging situations, and what ideas have worked and what has not worked so well. The membership is an invaluable source of knowledge. We are grateful for your generosity.

I specifically would like to thank Cindi Hawkins and the office staff at The Society for their support and for answering our various inquiries; Rick Evans for his work in coordinating the education program; and examiners George Cadman and Bob Reid for sharing their valuable insights—and for passing us!

I would like to thank each of our lecturers for sharing thoughts and for putting up with us—Marny

Morin for teaching us, marking our assignments, offering her valuable experiences, and for all the work she does for The Society on our behalf—and Wayne Braid for encouraging us, making us feel welcome, always having the answers, and for his commitment to the strength and enhancement of The Society.

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I must also thank our spouses, parents, children, friends, families, and other loved ones for your continued support throughout this adventure. We acknowledge and appreciate that we may have seemed a bit distant as we spent many days and nights completing assignments, preparing for exams, and attending functions.

We have learned much and developed valuable skills throughout the Notary Preparatory Course, especially during the post-examination

seminars and the 5-day mediation workshop. We will continue to work on our time management skills while embracing new challenges.

Some who have stood in this place before me quoted Albert Einstein; others shared Persian poetry. I would like to offer two anonymous passages borrowed from my Google search on graduating speeches.

- We will never lose sight of that which has brought us to this point: hard work, supportive families, trusting friends, thought-provoking colleagues, and our internal sense of values.
- Always realize that life is happening. Remember that life demands living. Remember to relax, have fun, and above all appreciate the people around us.

I extend our appreciation to those who have supported us but were unable to attend today and to each and every one of you for joining us and sharing in the celebration of our commission as BC Notaries Public. ▲