

Dr. Roberta Bondar Coin Unveiling - Tuesday November 1, 2016 – Sault College

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone. It's wonderful to be joining you here today, on this most auspicious occasion.

For eight days in January of 1992, I think it's fair to say that everyone in Sault Ste. Marie became an amateur astronomer. Each clear night, there were a lot of eyes trained skyward in our City, hoping to see the Space Shuttle Discovery passing overhead, carrying one of our own— Dr. Roberta Bondar.

Many of us who were school-aged at the time can remember crowding into gymnasiums or around television sets in classrooms to watch the launch of the shuttle happen live. In the days that followed, young and old alike would open up the pages of the Sault Star or flip on the nightly news, eager for updates on our hometown astronaut.

Dr. Bondar's accomplishments in the space program—the first Canadian woman in space, the world's first neurologist in space, and the head of NASA's space medicine program for more than a decade—are well known.

However, she is also a celebrated speaker, environmentalist and photographer. In fact, I have one of her landscapes, on loan from the Art Gallery of Algoma, gracing the wall of my office at City Hall.

Throughout her career and over the course of her many accomplishments, Dr. Bondar has remained a steadfast supporter of Sault Ste. Marie. And as always, we are incredibly grateful to her for being such a tireless and positive ambassador for our community.

I'd like to thank The Royal Canadian Mint and its President and CEO Sandra Hanington for holding this event in Sault Ste. Marie. I'd also like to thank our friends at Sault College for hosting today's ceremony. The unveiling of this Silver Collector Coin: "A VIEW OF CANADA FROM SPACE", is a most fitting recognition of the 25th anniversary of Dr. Bondar's historic mission.

Thank you again for allowing me the chance to speak. And on behalf of Sault Ste. Marie City Council, congratulations once more to Dr. Roberta Bondar!