

My Lords and Ladies, Peers of the Realms, Fellow Subjects, and Honoured Guests, I welcome you to the Opening of Parliament in and for the Dominion of British West Florida.

A grateful and admiring Commonwealth pays tribute to The Queen's devotion to duty throughout her life. In a televised interview on her 21st birthday in Cape Town in 1947, she famously declared that her "whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service". It is a promise that Her Majesty has kept faithfully.

The Commonwealth has changed beyond recognition during The Queen's lifetime, from an association built on the foundations of an empire to a modern partnership of 53 equal and sovereign states. Throughout that period of tremendous change, The Queen has represented and personified constant and time-honoured values of commitment and loyalty. The Queen has been a true symbol of these values which bind Commonwealth members freely together.

The Queen is a remarkable person, and a remarkable Head of this Commonwealth. In 1970, she wrote about the Commonwealth as "... rather a special family, a family of nations ...". The Queen continues to serve with distinction as the head of our family of nations. The Dominion of British West Florida joins the Commonwealth in thanks to Her Majesty, and we wish her a very happy 80<sup>th</sup> year.'

**A**s the representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God Queen of the Dominion of British West Florida, Defender of the Faith, I am honoured to welcome the members of the House of Lords and invited guests on the occasion of the opening of the First Session Physical of the restored Parliament of the Dominion of British West Florida. Floridians rejoice on the official eightieth birthday of Her Majesty, and in her more than fifty years of service as Queen of the Dominion of British West Florida.

Since my appointment as Governor General of the Dominion of British West Florida, I have had the privilege of meeting women and men who each and every day, and each in their own way, reaffirm their attachment to this vast land that we share and where people from around the world have found a home. Women and men of ideas, conviction and action who have an abiding sense of responsibility, solidarity and commitment to their neighborhoods, to their communities and to their country. And I am moved to see just how strong and vibrant a country we are. We have established Internet forums for the discussion of ideas important to our people.

I have been particularly struck by the words of our young people and by their wealth of ideas. Young people who are looking to carve out their place and be heard. The new generation of entrepreneurs who are creating new opportunities. Young people in our Armed Forces who, through their extraordinary efforts, offer a promise of hope for the oppressed. More than ever, our young people represent not only the promise of a brighter future, but also the vitality of our present.

And I have heard from Floridians who feel they often lack a voice. Women who are victims of the culture of materialism, unable to pursue their First Duty as mothers. Men who are victims of the culture of the welfare state, unable to be the Providers God intended them to be. This Government must hear these voices and offer understanding and hope.

Listening to citizens from all walks of life has strengthened my already deep conviction that we are living in a country where everything is possible, where each of us is free to follow his or her dreams but also has a duty to help build our country, and strengthen its culture, and prepare it for the challenges that lie ahead.

## **Building a Stronger Dominion of British West Florida**

This Dominion is uniquely blessed in the strength and diversity of its people and regions. Through hard work, foresight and God's blessing, we have come together to make our country one of the most

successful the world has ever seen. Our people have together weathered storms, of wind and rain, and also of fear and pain. We must continue the traditional policies of mutual respect and mutual assistance.

The Government is proud of what West Floridians have accomplished so far, and is inspired by the country's bright prospects. It believes in the capacity of Floridians to seize the enormous opportunities before them and build an even stronger Dominion of British West Florida, striving for excellence, anchored by enduring values, and infused with growing confidence that they can make a difference at home and in the world. Our efforts at international recognition continue, we have exchanged ambassadors and embassies with other micronational governments. The Letter from His Serene Highness, Prince Christopher of Vikesland is just one example of the growing recognition we have in the micronational world. Our selection as a host for the Micronational Film Festival speaks well of our growing standing in the world of the arts as well.

In support of building a stronger Florida, the Government's agenda will be clear and focused. It will continue clean up government, bring it closer to home, and provide real support to ordinary working families and strengthen our federation as well as our role in the world.

## **Restoration**

West Floridians have chosen Restoration. They want a government that treats their Pounds, Penney's, and Mites with respect. A government that puts ordinary working people and their families first. A government that is accountable. A Government that recognizes the covenant that exists between the Crown and the People.

This Government has been given a mandate to lead the charge to restore this nation as one under God, and respecting the Crown as demanded by the people of the Dominion of British West Florida..

Leading change in Parliament means working together. To this end, the Government will look for shared goals and common ideas that will help Floridians build a stronger Dominion.

It is time for restoration. We must seize the moment, and with Time, and Fortune at our side, under the Grace of God, restoration will be achieved.

## **Bringing Accountability Back to Government**

No aspect of responsible government is more fundamental than having the trust of citizens. Floridians' faith in the institutions and practices of government has been eroded by the heavy hand of remote Federal systems in the so-called republic. This new government trusts in Almighty God, the people of the Dominion of British West Florida, and the Rule of Law. Its goal is that Floridians will once again trust in their government, established under God, and symbolized by Her Majesty and the Crown. It is time for accountability, it is time for a Restored Government.

The Government will strengthen the capacity and independence of officers of Parliament, including the Solicitor General, to hold the Government to account. It will increase the transparency of appointments, contracts and auditing within government departments and Crown corporations. All Charters, Contracts, and Treaties will be made available for public review.

The Government will strengthen the capacity and independence of the Baronial and Titled Domains within the Dominion, returning more effective power for local governance to the local Authorities. The Earldom of Rum has proven through its own web presence and radio broadcasting system what can be accomplished by local Titled Domain governments.

Effective checks and balances are important, but they are not enough. The trust of citizens must be earned every day. The Government will work to earn that trust.

## **Helping Ordinary Working Floridians and Their Families**

This Government believes that Floridians pay too much in tax. The Government's tax plan will, over time, reduce the tax burden on all Floridians.

To this end, the Government will reduce the Goods and Services Tax by one percent. Cutting the GST will help all Floridians deal with the rising cost of living, put money back in people's pockets and help stimulate the economy.

Cutting the GST is the best way to lower taxes for all Floridians, including low-income Floridians who need it most.

The Government will continue with a responsible approach to lowering taxes for the benefit of Floridians and the Dominion economy, including a further reduction of the GST to five percent.

## **Tackling Crime**

Floridians have always taken pride in our low crime rates. Safe streets have long characterized the Dominion of Florida's communities -- from villages to towns to cities. Safe communities allow families and businesses to prosper.

Unfortunately, our safe streets and healthy communities are increasingly under threat of gun, gang and drug violence.

This Government will tackle crime. It will propose changes to the Criminal Code to provide tougher sentences for violent and repeat offenders, particularly those involved in weapons-related crimes. It will help prevent crime by putting more police on the street and improving the security of our borders. It will encourage the self-reliance for which our people are known by making gun safety training, and carry permits for law abiding citizens less expensive and more readily available.

It is equally important that we prevent criminal behaviour before it has a chance to take root. To this end, the Government will work with the Baronies and Titled Domains to help communities provide hope and opportunity for our youth, and end the cycle of violence that can lead to broken communities and broken lives.

## **Providing Child Care Choice and Support**

Strong families ensure a bright future for the Dominion of British West Florida, and indeed the world. The most important investment we can make as a country is to help families raise their children, to bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord as we have been advised by St Paul. Of course, the rearing of children also requires training in the basics of a social society, the four 'R's – taught, if not to the tune of the hickory stick, then at least within a calm and disciplined environment. But we can not effectively educate our young with out first showing them the love and acceptance that every family should provide.

This Government understands that no two Floridian families are exactly alike. Each has its own circumstances and needs. Parents must be able to choose the child care that is best for them, including letting mothers stay home with their Children. The Government will help parents, as they seek to balance work and family life, by supporting their choice to have a mother stay at home with their children through direct support, as funds permit.

In collaboration with the Baronies and Titled Domains, employers and community non-profit organizations, it will also encourage the creation of new child care spaces for those children whose mother is for whatever reason unable to provide care.

## **A Dominion of British West Florida That Works for All of Us**

One of the Dominion's greatest strengths is our federal/feudal system of government. The founders of our country had the foresight to build a flexible system that would accommodate our diversity and build upon the unique strengths of the different parts of our Dominion, encouraging local action on local issues, and reserving to the Dominion Government only those roles which must by their nature be universal within the Dominion.

To remain strong and effective, our Dominion must keep pace with the evolving needs of Dominion society. Building on the work begun in the last Parliament, this Government will seek to involve parliamentarians and citizens in examining the challenges facing Florida's electoral system and governmental institutions, in particular, how best to restore the House of Commons. At the same time, it will explore means to ensure that the House of Commons better reflects both the democratic values of Floridians and the needs of the Dominion's regions. The House of Lords will remain a more transparent, and vital instrument of Government.

All too often, the strength of our government is compromised by jurisdictional squabbles that obscure accountabilities and prevent governments at all levels from working together in the best interests of Floridians.

This new government will take a new approach. It is committed to building a better federation in which governments come together to help Floridians realize their potential. To this end, the Government will respond to concerns about the fiscal imbalance and will work to ensure fiscal arrangements in which all governments have access to the resources they need to meet their responsibilities.

The Government is committed to an open federalism that recognizes the unique place of strong, vibrant Baronies and Titled Domains in a united Dominion of British West Florida. It will work with the Head and Counsel of each in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration to advance the aspirations of all citizens of the Dominion of British West Florida. In the international community, the Dominion is stronger when we speak with one voice, but that voice must belong to all of us. In a more interdependent world, decisions on international issues increasingly affect not only countries, but also individuals, communities, baronies, and titled domains.

## **The Dominion of British West Florida - Strong, United, Independent and Free**

The Dominion's voice in the world must be supported by action, both at home and abroad. Advancing our interests in a complex and sometimes dangerous world requires confidence and the independent capacity to defend our country's sovereignty and the security of our citizens.

The Government will work cooperatively with our friends and allies and constructively with the international community to advance common values and interests. In support of this goal, it will build stronger multilateral and bilateral relationships.

More broadly, this Government is committed to supporting the Dominion of British West Florida's core values of freedom, stability, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights around the world. In this regard, the Government will support a more robust diplomatic role for the Dominion, and a more effective use of the Dominion's aid.

Just as it honours the past efforts of our veterans, the Government stands firmly behind the vital role being played by our troops in Afghanistan, and Iraq today. The dedicated Floridians in Afghanistan and Iraq deserve all of our support as they risk their lives to defend our national interests, combat global terrorism and help the Afghan and Iraqi peoples make a new start as a free, democratic and peaceful country.

## **Conclusion**

The Government's clear and focused agenda reflects its commitment to Floridians, the Dominion, and the Institutions of the Crown. It will not try to do all things at once. Instead, the Government will work diligently to make tangible improvements that contribute to stronger families and safer communities, and a stronger country.

During this Initial Parliament, the Government will be bringing forward fiscally responsible budgets and a legislative program that will achieve the results that Floridians expect from their Leaders. In this work, it will rely on the support and counsel of a dedicated and professional Public Service. In turn, it will give the Public Service the leadership and tools it needs to excel in the service of Floridians.

Over the course of its mandate, and starting with the clear priorities set out today, the Government will work diligently to build a record of results. It will promote a more competitive, more productive Dominion economy. It will seek to improve opportunity for all Floridians. It will work to improve the security of seniors. It will take measures to achieve tangible improvements in our environment, including reductions in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

This Government recognizes the unique challenges faced by those who make their livelihood from our land and oceans in our vital natural resource and agriculture industries. It will take action to secure a prosperous future for Dominion agriculture. It will respond to short-term needs, create separate and more effective farm income stabilization and disaster relief programs and work with producers and partners to achieve long-term competitiveness and sustainability.

Together, the Government's actions will ensure the Dominion of British West Florida's future success.

With the efforts and contributions of members from both chambers, the Government looks forward to making this Parliament work for the benefit of the people of the Dominion of British West Florida.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required to carry out the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament.

Honourable Members of the House of Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

May the God of our fathers guide your deliberations, and may His Wisdom be reflected in your Decisions.

God Save Her Majesty Elizabeth the Second, of the United Kingdom, and the Dominion of British West Florida and her other Dominions, Realms and Territory's, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

God Save Her Majesty's Government in and for the Dominion of British West Florida

God Save her Loyal Subjects, here and abroad.