



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

July 20, 2016

## **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to German Herrera, Consul General of Colombia in Toronto, members of our Colombian Canadian community, Consuls General from other Latin American countries and to everyone gathered in this ceremony to mark Colombia's 206<sup>th</sup> Independence Day.

Colombians around the globe remember the heroes and statesmen who played pivotal roles in their nation's struggle for independence. Independence enables a nation to act in the best interests of its people and to chart its own destiny. It allows a nation to engage with other countries in friendship and trade, and ultimately, find its place in the global community.

Today, Colombia is one of the largest economies in Latin America and one of Canada's major political and economic partners. In literature and in the other arts, Colombia has left its mark and enriched world culture immeasurably.

As Colombia and Canada celebrate 63 years of diplomatic relations, I am proud to note that the province of Ontario is home to a large and flourishing Colombian Canadian community. Their skills, talents and cultural contributions have helped energize our economy, build a successful multicultural society and strengthen our ties with Colombia.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for a joyous celebration of Colombia's National Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kathleen Wynne'.

**Kathleen Wynne**  
**Premier**