

## “Men of Honour”

Madame Justices, Members of our Legislative Assembly, Councillors Melnychuk and Phair, Members of the Police Commission, Distinguished Guests, Honourees, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is truly an honour to be here this morning and to participate in this most important recognition breakfast

This morning you will meet 10 men. They all have their differences but they all share similarities.

They come from different walks of life, they are different ages, they come from different socio-economic backgrounds and they have different life experiences.

What is it they have in common?

They have all demonstrated honourable leadership by action in their communities and in their city.

When we speak of honourable men, we mean admirable, we mean worthy, we mean praise worthy, we mean moral, we mean principled, we mean good, respectable, and right.

These are all men of courage who have stepped up to do what they believe in, to do what is needed, to do what is proper

They are all virtuous, meaning they put the values they believe in into actions that they carry out.

While we are honouring 10 men today, there are hundreds of men in our City who are honourable and who are heroes in the lives of their families, their neighbourhoods and their communities but we need to have many more.

I think about the incidents I have seen over my career and all that our society has learned.

We know some of these tragedies could have been avoided or prevented if more honourable men could have been involved in the lives of young people.

Just think for a moment about the impact of honourable men, fathers or father figures, on young boys and young girls.

You see, it is honourable men that teach young boys by their actions and words how to solve problems, how to be a gracious winner as well as a gracious loser, how to apologize for reckless words. It is honourable men that teach young boys how to listen when others have grown tired of listening, how to pull back when they are headed in the wrong direction, how to encourage them when they meet with disappointment, and how to help them learn from their mistakes.

It is also honourable men who teach young girls... the standards against which they will judge all men, to teach them that their value as a person is more than the way they look, to show them how it feels to be loved unselfishly, to teach them that they are equal to men and to teach them that a man's strength is NOT in the force of his hand or his voice but in the kindness of his heart.

I want to thank Friends of PAAFE (Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton) for taking a leadership role and for organizing this breakfast where we can honour these men today.

I also believe that we must support organizations like PAFFE who do so very much to help people in our communities.

I am particularly proud that policing is represented in this group this morning but to all the honourees I want to congratulate you and I look forward to shaking your hands.