



100th Anniversary of Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova

It gives me great pleasure to join with everyone in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova.

Dr. Lotta was a great Canadian and truly a citizen of the world. Before even coming to this country she had to face the tragedy of World War II, which forced her from her native Czechoslovakia. If any good came out of this for both her and us it was coming into contact with the Unitarian Service Committee. From this Dr. Lotta became the driving force behind the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada – now USC Canada a few years after arriving here.

In this role, Dr. Lotta's tours of the country were legendary and she was able to tap into the generous spirit of Canadians to give to those who were still suffering. Anybody here during those years would have become well acquainted with her familiar figure, uniform and accent that reminded us all of the need to donate to those in desperate need – no matter where they were around the world.

Dr. Lotta was much honoured during her lifetime and deservedly so but it is important that we remember her good works and pay tribute to her memory on this significant anniversary. In many ways she is the story of the 20th Century in Canada having lived through the terrible destruction of the War, coming here feeling "completely lost" as an immigrant and then contributing so much to make this world a "better, kinder place for all."

Please accept my humble addition to this remembrance and the hope that the spirit of Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova will continue to move through this country.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Ignatieff".

Michael Ignatieff, M.P.
2009