

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
First Minister of Scotland

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T: 0845 774 1741



Harry McGrath

(Email: harry@culturalconnectscotland.com)

July 2008

Dear Mr McGrath,

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 June to the First Minister requesting his written support for the Canmore Highland Games and Calgary Highland Games respectively. The First Minister is pleased to be asked to support the Games in this way and has provided the attached text for this purpose.

The First Minister wishes you a successful week in Alberta.

Yours sincerely,

IAN DONALDSON
Private Secretary

Message from Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP MSP,
First Minister of Scotland

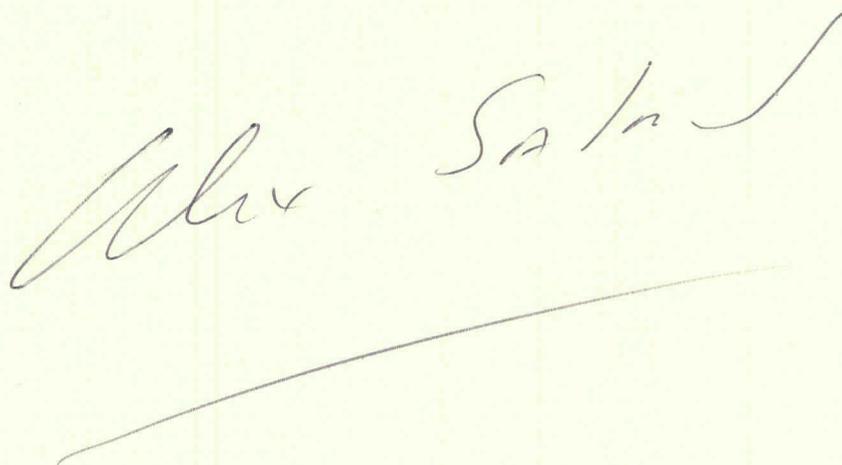
As First Minister of Scotland it is an honour to be asked to contribute a few words in support of the Canmore Highland Games: even more so since in the UK Parliament I am proud to represent the constituency of Banff and Buchan.

Now in its 17th year the Canmore Highland Games is renowned as "the best games" in Western Canada. This does not happen by chance. I know that organisers, volunteers and participants work tirelessly; and that in raising awareness of their Scottish heritage, the Canmore Highland Games maintains and encourages links with Scotland in culture, music, literature, history, language and sport.

All these facets of Scottish heritage will be much in evidence on Sunday 31 August when Scots Canadians, and visitors from Scotland and beyond, come together for a day of celebrations.

I am always delighted at the sense of pride Scots overseas have in their culture and heritage. This is a pride that we in Scotland share and, as First Minister, I am myself proud indeed to lead a country which is increasingly recognised the world over as a great place to live, learn, work, do business and invest. It is also a great place to visit, and on behalf of the whole of Scotland I extend an invitation to you to visit Scotland in 2009 as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, and Scotland's Year of Homecoming. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many Scots Canadians in Scotland next year.

On behalf of the people of Scotland, I extend my very best wishes for an enjoyable day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Salmond', written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a long, thin horizontal line.

ALEX SALMOND

Message from Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP MSP,
First Minister of Scotland

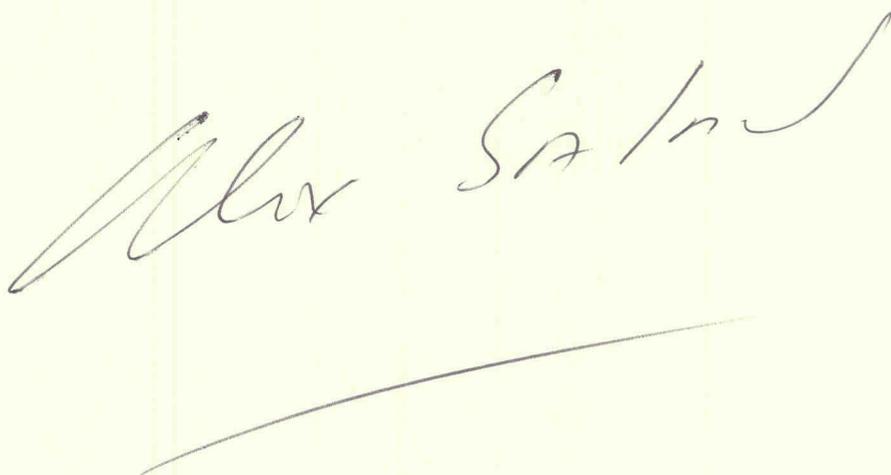
It is an honour to be asked to say a few words in support of The Calgary Highland Games.

Celebrating its 95th year, I know the Calgary United Scottish Games Association has worked tirelessly to raising awareness of Scottish heritage and that its efforts help to maintain and encourage links with Scotland in culture, music, literature, history, language and sport.

This will be much in evidence on Saturday 30 August when Scots Canadians and visitors with an appreciation and love of our traditions, come together for a day of celebrations.

I am always delighted at the sense of pride Scots overseas have in their culture and heritage and this is a pride that we in Scotland share. Today's Scotland is on the move. Scotland is a modern and vibrant country. As First Minister, I am proud indeed to lead a country which is increasingly renowned the world over as a great place to live, learn, work, do business and invest. It is also a great place to visit, and on behalf of the whole of Scotland I extend an invitation to you to visit Scotland in 2009 as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, and Scotland's Year of Homecoming. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many Scots Canadians in Scotland next year.

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ALEX SALMOND