



Blake Richards, M.P.
Parliamentary Tourism Caucus Chair
Wild Rose

Wild Rose Report

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SHARING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT ALL TIMES OF THE YEAR

There's a scene in the 1951 movie *A Christmas Carol* in which Ebenezer Scrooge tells the ghost of Jacob Marley that Marley's worldly preoccupation with wealth had simply marked him as "a good man of business."

"BUSINESS?" Marley wails in response, rattling the chains that his mortal obsession had forged. "Mankind was my business! Their common welfare was my business! And it is at this time of the rolling year that I suffer most!"

While ol' Marley may have come to the realization too late, Christmas does have a way of reminding us of the needs of those around us. And many Canadians make every attempt to share their blessings with those who may be less fortunate at this time of year.

But the needs we work to address in the glow of the season's goodwill do not just disappear in the New Year alongside the tinsel and the artificial trees. Those needs remain and the same spirit of generosity that we're so quick to share with others before December 25th would be just as warmly received in the days and months afterwards.

The churches, food banks and charities that so gladly receive our Christmastime donations and offers of help for the less fortunate could use our assistance just as much throughout the rest of the year.

The loved ones we gather near to us to share the holiday season would welcome our company more often at other times of the year, too.

And the Canadian soldiers who risk their safety to serve our country could use our prayers and our expressions of support just as much in the summer as the winter.

During this Christmas season, let's all reflect on the ways that we can share our blessings and work toward the well-being of those in need, now and at all times of the year.

Which reminds me of another great quote from Charles Dickens' tale, this by the Spirit of Christmas Present:

"We Spirits of Christmas do not live only one day of our year! We live the whole three-hundred and sixty-five. So is it true of the Child born in Bethlehem. He does not live in men's hearts one day of the year, but in all days of the year."

Merry Christmas!