



**Speech by Claude Joli-Cœur, at the tribute to Ryan Larkin, Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 7:00 pm, at the NFB Mediatheque in Toronto.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, filmmakers and guests, good evening.**

*We're here to pay tribute to Ryan Larkin and his immense talent. He died last February, but his work is still with us and provides real inspiration for filmmakers in Canada and abroad.*

**I would like to highlight the extraordinary contributions that Ryan made to the National Film Board, and to the world of film animation. Ryan brought an Oscar nomination to the Board in 1968, for *Walking*. But even more importantly, he possessed rare creative and poetic talents that helped make our animation studios the unique creative and innovative centres that they remain today – 65 years after their founding.**

**I thank you for being here, and would also like to extend my thanks to Ryan's colleagues and friends, who will, through their words, help us understand the man and the artist they knew.**

**Good evening.**

*Bonne soirée.*