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***Calling Forth A Nation***

***By Rawle James***

Our hopes and dreams soar on the wings of the great eagle
as she lays witness to our collective spirit
running wild and free
like the mighty herds of buffalo and caribou
wisdom sits on the branch of the old birch tree
in the form of a snow owl as she stands watch
perched with guarded optimism
of what lies around the bend

we are a people forged from the courage of the original newcomers
who sought refuge fueled by a vision quest of a new beginning
we stand on the backs of mighty people from many nations
like the Inuit, Haida, Okanagan, Nakota, Algonquian,Innu,
who's sacrifice of  living as strangers upon their own land
laid the foundation the for French, British, Dutch, Metis
memories of their blood sweat and tears flow from all the waters
as All our ancestors await our awakening
their voices echo across every valley and inlet, from every shoreline
to the highest mountaintops
across the bountiful prairies
their spirit can be seen in the magnanimous colours
of the seasons to remind the people
of our rich heritage that embraces the good...the bad
whispers carry seeds of change
voiced like the cold fog breathe of howling wolves
whose cries haunt our memories of days gone by

Today, I call forth a nation
one where the practice is of being human
where the status quo is empathy not fear
a new nation whose super natural beauty
is beyond mere flesh and bones
for all existence is birth from the labour of Love
of our great Mother

Today, I call forth a nation
whose ebb in flow with the energies
of acceptance and respect
our potential to live in harmony with the land
lies with our ability to live
in harmony with each other
to live let live harm no other

Today, I call forth a nation
who is worthy of a better tomorrow
Now
a people ready to fulfil their potential
knowing the wisdom we seek
lies in our past
when looked upon with Love
the promise that is Canada
lies not perched on a pedestal
for we are the pedestal
of which her foundation is built

Today, I call forth a nation
whose diversity of landscapes
is reflected by the diversity of her people
the dreams and hopes that is Canada
fuels the warrior poet to battle injustice
with words of inclusion and equity
let us venture beyond time and space
to see that the needs and wants of our ancestors
do not differ from Us today
and the truth of their day
connects to the truth of our day
for we are not separate from life
we are Life

let us dance, sing and rejoice
as we reframe the conditioning
let the light of our Love
create a new affirmation of peace and prosperity
worry not of our legacy
for it will be written based on what we do
Now
and in this Now
let us remember the greatest of a country
lies not in her government but with her people
and as a people
let us be mindful, humble and inviting
be patient, kind, generous, gentle, joyous
choose to be of service
let us embrace in this moment of Us
our native land is Mother Earth
Oh Canada our chosen home
We stand on guard for me, you, Us
this is where we live
Today, I call forth a new nation