

**M Ex Comp Ross Young
May 23, 2026
Inaugural Address**

Distinguished East, Special Guests, Visitors and Companions All.

Most Worshipful the Grand Master Leblanc, I am pleased to have you sitting in the east for this year's Royal Arch Mason Convocation, as it was you who started me on this path three short years ago as Grand Principal Sojourner. Thank you for joining us.

Companions,

I am deeply honored to be given this opportunity to stand before you as Grand First Principle with no confusion on my part as to the significance of the work ahead and the trust that you all have placed in me. Companions, you can rest assured that my year as Grand First Principal is in good hands with the guidance and mentorship of the previous Grand First Principals seated here today, as well as our Grand Scribe E, MEC Martin and our Grand Treasurer, Rt. Ex. Comp. Lowe.

To all the officers who I have appointed and have graciously accepted their positions, I thank you for your support and wish you every success in your new role and especially look forward to working with you during the coming months. A special Thank you to MEC Davis, our installing Master, and every companion taking part in the installation of the officers and myself. Your work and dedication are very much appreciated.

I would like to thank Saskatoon Chapter No. 4 for allowing me to affiliate and giving me a place to call home with the charter surrender of King George Chapter No. 14. Although we are down to eight chapters in the jurisdiction, there are a few chapters showing determination and growth with new members. My intention is not to ignore the declining number of companions but to focus on the positive. Our success as with every concordant body

comes from our individual support and devotion to our blue lodges, which without, Royal Arch Masons may cease to exist.

As I began to formulate my theme for the year, I found myself reflecting on those themes presented by our recent Past Grand First Principals', MEC Olmsted brought us "Growth and Discovery through Unity and Collaboration", MEC Elliott brought us, "Educate, Illuminate and Celebrate", MEC LeBlanc "Brightening Our Future by Preserving Our Past" and MEC Martins theme and teachings of "The Inner Mason" .

These were the mentors of my time as I traveled on the Grand Line beginning as the Principal Sojourner to standing here today. My initial thought was and still is that they are "very hard acts to follow".

This brings me to my theme for the year. In my mind this should be simple and something that every companion, every mason could be a part of. My theme is "Masonic Words into Actions: Let's Be True Companions".

This year I would like to challenge every companion to put their words into action. Those cherished words that we as masons have as guiding principles during our masonic journey. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The power of friendship and visitation go hand in hand. A recent quote given to me saw companions "arriving as strangers but leaving as friends" and those friendships will last for years. Let's build these friendships. Let's take the time to hear the stories from those we visit or from those who visit us.

Over the past several years my opportunity to visit other chapters, lodges and concordant bodies has been the greatest influence in maintaining my commitment to being a mason. I have met so many amazing, dedicated masons. Visitation is considered one of the most important of all masonic privileges. In years past one only needed to look at the meeting registers to see that visitors could almost outnumber the members present. At its simplest form it was an opportunity to share stories and enjoy each other's company, but it was so much more. A chance to share and exchange ideas, to

develop and take part in understanding the ceremonies and rituals that we value.

It is no secret that some of our chapters are struggling to conduct degree work and occasionally cannot hold meetings. Our challenge is to support them with our actions, be willing to make the journey, be the building blocks of their success.

Companions, “cooperation and communication have never been more important”. “Visitation has never been more important”. Join me this year in being more active and willing to support our companions. Often times, all that is needed for a successful meeting is to know that visitors will be joining us.

This past year MEC Olmsted encouraged improved communication and made attempts to organize a field day, but mother nature had different plans. Every attempt will be made to revive those field day intentions.

Let’s commit to challenge ourselves to attend and support another chapter in our jurisdiction. If planning to travel take the time to communicate and encourage other companions to travel with you. Visitors provide so much more than filling chairs.

Visiting another chapter is an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and is an excellent way to expand one’s knowledge and build new friendships. Our experienced members are given an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills while deepening our commitment to the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth.

In closing, I would like to thank all the companions, guests and those visitors who traveled from across Canada for being a part of this Royal Arch Mason convocation and encourage everyone to put our **“Masonic words into actions” and “Let’s be true companions”**.

Thank you.