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Mayor, Town of Wolfville
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Hello graduates of Acadia's 2020/21 graduating class, parents and family and friends who are sharing this joy with you, Acadia faculty and administration, and all the residents of the Town of Wolfville, who really do want the very best for you.

As the Mayor of the Town of Wolfville, it is my great pleasure to bring you words of support and congratulations on this very special day. It goes without saying that I would much rather be standing face-to-face sharing these words than face to Zoom, but in this weirdness, that is our current situation.

I am sure we will look back on these opportunities or these situations with a fondness that we may not feel right now, but I'm sure we will in the future. I know that we will all look back on this year or this year and a half as a very special time in our life, or at least a different time.

I remember somebody told me many years ago, and this was in the context of a travel experience, but it wasn't exactly what I expected that once time passes, you forget, and I have found this is absolutely true.

You forget those struggles and all you remember are the fun times and the good times, and the weird experiences you'll have, and I'm sure these will be stories that you can share for years to come.

Perhaps this year has helped us to be mindful of our impact on each other, and appreciate the richness and importance of those connections, those opportunities to truly interact and share our time together with each other.

Life is fragile and sometimes transient, and there are memories and important lessons in even the most difficult of situations, and I know there will be in this year as well.

Acadia students are an important part of what makes Wolfville the progressive and lively town that it is. The energy that you bring to this small town makes us so different than most towns in our province and many towns in our country.

Each year as new students arrive and as students like yourselves say goodbye to us, our permanent residents also experience a change in their life as they adjust to new residents in their midst.

This experiment of ours of permanent residents and an ever-changing student body brings to our town a creativity and an energy and opportunities to work out how to best live with change and diversity. It's not always easy, sometimes it's stressful, but I do absolutely believe it creates a resiliency and a flexibility in our town that serves it and makes it so much better for having gone through those experiences.

It's my fondest hope, this was a big part of my election campaign interestingly, that many of our Acadia students will find their life works in Wolfville. And then if you are not aware, we are working hard to figure out how we might do that, but if you aren't able to stay here right away, we hope you will come back and find your life's work in Wolfville as so many of your predecessors have.

There will be opportunities in your future that were not even glimmers in the eyes of many of us when we stood in your shoes. Certainly, the issues and concerns that you have today are different, but so too is the potential you have, the learnings you have, the skills, the knowledge, the modern way of looking at things that will help you bring your skills and your innovation to help make this world the world that we all want it to be.

Each generation experiences the weight of issues of those times. I hope that Acadia and your time in Wolfville have helped prepare you for the issues that you will face. So, in closing, as you begin the next phase of your life, I hope you will hold your time as residents of Wolfville fondly. That something of our small town will stay with you forever, and I know that something of you will stay with our small town.

So again, congratulations, and the very, very best in your future. I wish you all that you want in your life. Thank you.