

Dear Caledonians, Members and Friends of the New York Caledonian Club,

Contemporary Scotland is alive!

Contemporary Scotland is more than tartans, clans and bagpipes. Always a land that with the sea made its people, today Scotland is navigating its way into the new millennium.

Contemporary Scotland is a life being dreamed and lived, worked and managed, crafted and lead, taught and learned, discovered and understood, plowed and planted, wired and worn, harvested and honed, fished and drilled, sailed and driven, protected and defended, written and painted, danced and drank, born and honored in passing, studied and reformed, financed and paid for, and finding its way in all manner of human endeavor.

Contemporary Scotland is both our ancestors and our grandchildren. Scots are resourceful and imaginative, strong and beautiful, giving and hopeful, brilliant and creative. Think of the great Scots heroes we know, those who make our world a better place today, and make us proud to be Scots. We know so many and even more we have not yet met. But what do we know about contemporary Scotland. There are too few of us who know much.

Contemporary Scotland with a grand past is working to build a great future. Like so many other nations it is grappling with the trials of modern social, economic, political and religious transition and growth. It seeks to educate its people young and old, to care for its new born and aging, feed its people well, trade with the world, reach out among close neighbors and faraway partners.

There is a desire to learn from the past, create the future and share with the world its leadership in science, education, technology, medicine, business, diversity, community, law, industry, art, entrepreneurship and government. The Scottish Executive is seeking to build a future for the nation in health, education and training, local government, social work, housing, planning, tourism, economic development and financial assistance to industry, some aspects of transport, including the Scottish road network, bus policy and ports and harbours, law and home affairs, including most aspects of criminal and civil law, the prosecution system and the courts, the Police and Fire services, the environment, natural and built heritage, agriculture, forestry and fishing, sport and the arts, statistics, public registers and records.

As the recently re-elected Jack McConnell said on 28 May 2003 in his Parliamentary Statement by the First Minister on the Executive's Programme for 2003 - 2004, "We want to build a Scotland, that delivers social justice and creates opportunities for all of its citizens to live and prosper. A country whose institutions are open and accountable and reflect the people's priorities. And a Scotland which rejoices and celebrates the diversity of its peoples and cultures and is confident of its place in Britain, Europe and the wider international community."

Because of its natural resources and its people contemporary Scotland is rich with

opportunity and busy with work to be done by all. It deserves your understanding and can use your help. Tourist dollars are a wonderful beginning, but there is more creative work for us all, a labor of love and investment in the past and future home of our sisters and brothers and their grandchildren.

This is the first of a series of messages from the 75th Chief about contemporary Scotland which will help us all learn and be inspired by the future fabric of Scottish life the tartan of tomorrow.

To find out more about contemporary Scotland here are a few easy sources only a few key strokes away for any of us, at home, at our libraries, schools, community centers, churches and offices.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/>"
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>
– Scottish Executive Online

HYPERLINK "<http://www.scottishparliamentlive.com/>"
<http://www.scottishparliamentlive.com>
- Scottish Parliament Live

HYPERLINK "<http://www.friendsofscotland.gov.uk/>"
<http://www.friendsofscotland.gov.uk>
– Friends of Scotland

HYPERLINK "<http://my.scotsman.com/>"
<http://my.scotsman.com>
– Scotsman

HYPERLINK "<http://www.RampantScotland.com>"
<http://www.RampantScotland.com>
– Rampant Scotland

HYPERLINK "<http://www.bbc.co.uk/email/news>"
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/email/news>
- BBC Email News

HYPERLINK "<http://www.scotlandonline.com/>"
<http://www.scotlandonline.com>
– Scotland Online

HYPERLINK "<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/>"
<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com>
– Scottish Enterprise

HYPERLINK "<http://www.contemporaryscotland.com/newhome2.shtml>"

<http://www.contemporaryscotland.com/newhome2.shtml>
- The Institute of Contemporary Scotland

Contemporary Scotland, learn it, love it, invest in it.

"My heart is in the Highlands, my heart is not here;
My heart is in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer."

-Robert Burns-
Yours aye,
Chris

Dr. Christopher Pratt
75th Chief
New York Caledonian Club, 1856
HYPERLINK "<http://www.nycaledonian.org/>"
<http://www.nycaledonian.org>

212-662-1083

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