



Aiden's Story

I wish to be the Prime Minister

Aiden, 15
heart condition

Aiden was born with a Congenital Heart Defect. At the age of 15, Aiden has already had four open heart surgeries. Despite his health challenges and complications that impact many areas of his life, Aiden is an extremely intelligent, well spoken young man. Aiden is fascinated by and has a passion for politics. It was no question when deciding on his wish; he wanted to be the nation's leader. His wish experience gave him the unique first-hand perspective of what it's like to be Canada's Prime Minister.

Aiden was met at the airport in Ottawa by the Prime Minister's Protection detail. He was whisked away to stay at the Chateau Laurier in the Prime Minister's private suite. While at the hotel, he was treated as though he was the PM and followed around by an entourage!

While visiting the Parliament, Aiden had lunch at the House of Commons with a special guest from Aiden's home town, London West MP, Kate Young. A highlight no doubt, was the privilege to meet privately and chat with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in his office!

Aiden also had the opportunity to enjoy a full tour of the RCMP facilities and see the task force (ERT) participating in a mock hostage and bomb detention exercise. Aiden saw behind the scenes with the special Homeland Room where the PM is escorted in case of a national emergency. No photos or videos are allowed in the area as it is that top secret!

Another notable highlight was the opportunity to meet with the military while in Ottawa. The military was so honoured by Aiden's interest, they hosted a luncheon and brought him in with bagpipes and a standing ovation! He also received a tour of the Canadian War Museum and was given access to parts of the museum that are included as archives, which the general public cannot access!

One of the biggest moments that he will never forget was his opportunity to speak at the House of Commons. Aiden's larger-than-life personality and quick wit make him an excellent engaged speaker. He ended his speech with, "Please remember my name, because in a few more years I will need your votes for when I run for Prime Minister of Canada."

It was tough for Aiden to find one part of his wish to narrow down as his favourite. It truly was a one-of-a-kind experience that fulfilled all of his hopes and dreams!

"What an experience that we will never forget! Make-A-Wish is incredible! Amazing! Life Changing! The pride I have witnessed in Aiden's eyes this week is truly a gift. They really do make miracles happen and allow these kids to shine in a way I never imagined. My heart is full."