

From: Gary Smith

Sent: March 27, 2020 9:09 AM

Subject: Letter To The Editor of the Globe and Mail : Shout Out To Embassy Employees

My following " Letter to the Editor" appeared in today's edition (March 28) of the Globe and Mail.

"A big shout out of support to Canada's Embassy employees around the world striving to repatriate tens of thousands of Canadians spread out in the hills, valleys, seashores and streets of multiple countries on different continents.

Theirs is not an easy task. Contacting men, women and children. Trying to assemble them in central locations where aircraft can land while ensuring they have food, water and shelter. Obtaining local flight clearances. Liaising with Ottawa on aircraft availability and flight times. Checking documents and health status. Dealing with emotionally stressed people while remaining calm oneself. Seeing everyone off safely while you remain behind.

I managed an evacuation when law and order broke down in Indonesia in 1998. This is a much bigger global endeavour in unparalleled circumstances. We should, however, be confident in the professionalism of our representatives abroad to meet the challenge.

Gary Smith
Former Canadian Ambassador
Perth, Ontario"