

Olympic Gold Inspiration

"I've got a feelin', that tonight's gonna be a good night. That tonight's gonna be a good, good night" ... the popular Black Eyed Peas song, which also happened to be our family theme song for 2009, kicked off the Olympic Gold Medal Hockey Medal Game Sunday night and for me, a proud and grateful Canadian, there could not have been a greater understatement. I feel like the luckiest girl in the world.

How does one describe the last two and half weeks of overflowing Canadian Pride in the venues and streets? The brilliant opening ceremonies complete with colorful and seemingly nonstop aboriginal dances and spouting whales to poetry reminding us of what kind of people we are (those who remember their please's and thank you's)? The spontaneous outburst of "Oh Canada" by thousands walking home appreciatively after Canada defeated Russia in hockey for the first time in 50 years? The look on my 11 year old son's face when his all time favorite Hockey player Jonathan Toews offered up his gold medal and remembering his name said " Whadda' ya' think of our gold, Lowell?" My daughter, Tess's thrilled smile after watching Canada's darlings Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir become the first North Americans to win gold in Ice Dance in Olympic history? The grin on my nephews' faces with Canada flags proudly draped around their backs and to watch Ashleigh McIvor – the cousin of our dearest friends in Whistler- win the first ever gold medal in ski cross by a country mile? The tear in the eye of my very earnest and enthusiastic brother in law Max as Brian Williams, the Olympic Broadcaster, bid the games adieu and signed off for the last time. It's not just good - it's surreal. And better yet- it makes me not only appreciate that much more what I have, where I live & who I have in my life, but boy does it inspire me to be the best I can be and also reminds me that I am capable of it. I know that sounds ridiculously cheesy, but it's true. All of these athletes started somewhere. I had the privilege of meeting a few of them and I can attest to the fact that they are regular people who figured out their passions, worked their fannies off and overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to get to where they are. I can do that. We can do that.

And the best part of it all for me was what great human beings they are. I sought out Jonathan Toews' mother to heap her with praise after meeting her son. After all, I thought, what kind of person under the glare of so much worldwide attention remembers the name of some kid with ketchup on his cheek looking for an autograph? A very well brought up young man from Manitoba with a great mother as a role model, that's who. Toews was just one of many examples I personally witnessed this last few weeks of what I call "great human beingness." And with that I close with saying Ed deserves a gold medal not only for the honor of being the type of individual to be invited to fill the boots of the host of the Canadian Men's Olympic Hockey Team, but also for working his tail off to do a bang up job and for creating a lifetime of priceless memories for his family and friends and what's more, for having the biggest smile ever when he saw how happy our kids were when he sat them down to watch the gold medal game. Here's to you and every other Canadian who went the extra mile. You have inspired me.