

British Columbia's Own Barbara Mowat to receive Governor General's award

News Release

Thursday, October 14, 2010

Toronto, October 15, 2010 – The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, this week announced the recipients of the 2010 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case. These 31st annual awards recognize outstanding individuals who have helped to advance equality for women in Canada.

Barbara Mowat of Abbotsford, BC and President of Impact Communications Ltd., was awarded for her dedication to advancing women in business. The awards ceremony will take place at Rideau Hall on Persons Day, October 18, 2010.

Barbara is a business development specialist and owner of one of the first WEConnect certified businesses. She is responsible for WEConnect's mentorship program and a strong advocate of supplier diversity initiatives. In addition to her role at Impact Communications Ltd., Ms. Mowat is the Women Presidents' Organization Chapter Chair in Vancouver and an advisory board member for the Global Banking Alliance for Women. Also involved in international work supporting women entrepreneurs in developing countries, Ms. Mowat led a special United Nations project to support businesswomen in Afghanistan.

"These awards commemorate the five Alberta women who in 1929 achieved the right for women to serve in the Senate," said Minister Ambrose. "This year we recognize women whose hard work has truly benefitted women and girls. The legacy of the Famous Five endures in these award recipients. We are proud to recognize the ongoing contributions of Canadians to improving the lives of women and girls in communities across the country."

Other recipients of the 2010 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case include: **Marie Louise Fish**, of Elgin, Ontario; **Lucille Harper**, of Pomquet, Nova Scotia; **Kerline Joseph**, of Delson, Quebec; and **Anne Michaud**, of Montréal, Quebec.

This year marks the 81st anniversary of the Persons Case. In 1929, five Canadian women – Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Nellie McClung, who became known as the Famous Five – fought and won the right for women to be recognized as persons before the law, and thus eligible to sit in the Senate. In 1979, the Government of Canada established the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Persons Case decision and to recognize contributions to the advancement of women.

WEConnect Canada (www.WEConnectCanada.org <<http://www.WEConnectCanada.org>>) is a Canadian non-profit organization that is opening doors to new supply chains. Funded in part by the Status of Women Canada and led by corporate members, WEConnect Canada certifies firms that are at least 51% owned, managed and controlled by women. WEConnect Canada connects these women-owned businesses with the growing global corporate and public sector demand for diverse and innovative suppliers. WEConnect Canada is an affiliate of WEConnect International.

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