

August 13, 2001

SASKATOON - Thomas C. Marshall, Q.C., of Toronto and Stephen Owen, Q.C., of Vancouver have been selected as this year's recipients of the John Tait Award of Excellence, presented by the Canadian Bar Association's Public Sector Lawyers Conference (PSLC).

"These two men have given our country a lifetime of superior public service. Mr. Marshall has provided outstanding legal advice and mentoring and is well-known for innovative and sensitive solutions helping institutional abuse victims," says CBA President Daphne Dumont, Q.C., of Charlottetown. "Mr. Owen has developed a reputation as a highly principled government representative meeting the highest standards of professional conduct and competence."

As a public servant, Mr. Marshall provided outstanding legal advice to successive Attorneys General and to the Province of Ontario. He is particularly recognized for his involvement with the "Grandview Agreement," an innovative, out-of-court system to deal with institutional abuse issues.

"Mr. Marshall has represented the public interest in government with integrity and a recognition of the special responsibility imposed on lawyers for ensuring that public administration respects the rule of law. He has gained a high standing in the profession and set an example for all who pursue public sector legal careers," says Daphne Dumont.

A graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School in 1966, Mr. Marshall was called to the Bar in 1968. He is currently General Counsel to the Attorney General of Ontario and President of the Ontario Bar Association.

Mr. Owen distinguished himself as a dedicated public service lawyer in a wide range of positions. He has been a Lam Professor of Law and Public Policy and Director at the Institute for Dispute Resolution, University of Victoria, as well as Commissioner and Vice President of the Law Commission of Canada from 1997 to 2000. He has also served as the Deputy Attorney General, Commissioner of Resources & Environment, Ombudsman, and Executive Director, Legal Services Society for British Columbia between 1982 and 1997.

Mr. Owen's commitment to public welfare extends beyond Canada's borders. He enjoys a reputation as a humanitarian and peacemaker, having been involved in peace processes in regions such as Sudan, Northern Uganda, Israel-Palestine, and South Africa. He has devoted much time and energy to the problems of social injustice and has performed public sector legal service in an exemplary fashion.

Currently a Member of Parliament for Vancouver-Quadra, Mr. Owen earned his LL.B. from the University of British Columbia in 1972, his LL.M. from University College, University of London in 1974, and an M.B.A. from the International Management Institute of the University of Geneva in 1986.

The John Tait Award is presented by the PSLC during the Canadian Bar Association's Annual Conference in Saskatoon, on August 13 at 4:30 p.m., in the Florence Room of

the Radisson Hotel. The event is open to accredited journalists who have registered with the CBA Media Centre.

The award was established in 1998 to honour, recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Public Sector Lawyers in Canada. Originally named the Inukshuk Award of Excellence, it was renamed in August 1999 to honour John Tait, an outstanding lawyer, public servant and friend of the CBA who passed away in the summer of 1999.

The Canadian Bar Association is dedicated to improvement in the law and the administration of justice. Some 37,000 lawyers, notaries, law teachers, and law students from across Canada are members.

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