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THE HON. DAVID MACDONALD, P.C., IS THIS YEAR'S CAFP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

OTTAWA, MAY 19, 2015

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP) has announced that the Hon. David MacDonald is this year's winner of its Distinguished Service Award. The award is to be presented in Ottawa on Monday, June 1st, by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons, both of whom are honorary members of CAFP.

Born in Charlottetown, PEI and educated at Dalhousie University and Pine Hill Divinity College in Halifax, David MacDonald was ordained a United Church minister in 1961. He was first elected as a Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament in 1965 and again in 1968 representing the western PEI riding until 1980. He served as Minister of Communications, Minister responsible for the Status of Women and Secretary of State for Canada from 1979-80. He was elected again in 1988, this time in the Toronto area riding of Rosedale where he served until the 1993 election. He was a candidate for the New Democratic Party in the same riding in 1997; but not elected.

His efforts on behalf of human rights both in Canada and abroad transcended his career as a parliamentarian. Mr. MacDonald served as Canada's ambassador to Ethiopia and Sudan playing an important role in famine relief efforts. From 1998 until the present, he advised the United Church of Canada on the issue of Indian Residential Schools which led directly to the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission due to report in early June. David MacDonald also served as an advisor to the church on environmental issues and climate change. He is the author of several books and articles on various international and domestic humanitarian issues and other public policy matters and lectured at Concordia University in Montreal.

The CAFP Distinguished Service Award is a peer nominated recognition presented annually for exceptional contributions by a former parliamentarian. CAFP was created in 1987 and permanently established by an act of Parliament in 1996. It is a non-partisan association composed of former parliamentarians who served either in the Senate or the House of Commons. For more information please see www.exparl.ca. Additional background information about the CAFP Distinguished Service Award is available at <http://www.exparl.ca/distinguished-service-award>.

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