



THE ALBERTA ORDER OF EXCELLENCE

News Release

October 9, 2003

Lieutenant Governor announces Alberta Order of Excellence inductees

Edmonton...Four Albertans have been chosen to receive the province's highest honour. The Right Honourable Don Mazankowski of Vegreville, Audrey Morrice of Okotoks, Jim Palmer of Calgary and Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff of Edmonton join the ranks of the 49 Albertans who have become members of the Alberta Order of Excellence since its inception in 1979.

"The Alberta Order of Excellence is a way for Albertans to thank and acknowledge individuals who have made a singular and lasting contribution to their province," said the Honourable Lois E. Hole, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta and Chancellor of the Order. "I encourage everyone to learn about the inspiring work these four wonderful individuals have done on behalf of all Albertans."

The Right Honourable Don Mazankowski served seven terms as the Member of Parliament for Vegreville and held a number of federal portfolios, including Deputy Prime Minister. His political accomplishments include the creation of numerous programs and policies that have strengthened economic and trade opportunities for Western Canada. Since retiring from politics in 1993, he has continued to serve Albertans and all Canadians through his work with a number of organizations including the Don Mazankowski Scholarship Foundation, the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network, the Institute of Health Economics and the University of Alberta.

Audrey Morrice is the founder of the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI). Her work began in 1972 when Mel Laine, the son of a friend, was severely brain injured in a traffic accident. Ignoring doctors' opinions that his vegetative state was permanent, and without the benefit of medical training, Audrey began working with Mel. Thanks to her caring and practical approach, he slowly regained his skills. Audrey's work expanded to more patients and led to the creation of ARBI. Her pioneering efforts have inspired countless Albertans to believe in what seems impossible and strive for positive change.

Jim Palmer is Chairman of the Calgary law firm Burnet Duckworth Palmer. He has played an instrumental role in the development of Alberta's oil and gas industry as a leader in business, tax and international law. He has served the University of Calgary in a number of capacities, including Chancellor, and has also been an active supporter of numerous social organizations including the Calgary Homeless Foundation. He has contributed to Canadian arts and culture, providing leadership to the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Council for Business and the Arts in Canada and the Fathers of Confederation Building Trust.

Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff is a critically acclaimed musician and teacher who has played a key role in creating the high quality of vocal music that exists in Alberta today. Through his work with groups such as the Richard Eaton Singers and the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, he has earned a solid reputation as a skilled and highly respected conductor who encourages a high level of technical excellence while fostering an environment of caring, integrity and respect. His accomplishments as Professor of Choral Music at the University of Alberta include the creation of Canada's largest graduate program in Choral Conducting.

The four inductees will be honoured at a private ceremony at Government House in Edmonton on Thursday, October 16, 2003. Inductees are named to the Order following a public nomination process and review by the Alberta Order of Excellence Council. Nominations to the Order are accepted year round and up to five individuals can be chosen in a given year for induction. Additional information about this year's inductees and the Alberta Order of Excellence, including nomination criteria and forms, is available online at www.lieutenantgovernor.ab.ca/aoe/xclence.htm

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For information on contacting inductees or media access to the ceremony, contact:

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NOTE: A formal induction ceremony is scheduled to take place at 7:00 pm, Thursday October 16 in the Alberta Room of Government House, 12845 - 102 Avenue Edmonton. Media wishing to attend should be set up in the Alberta Room by 6:45 pm. The doors will reopen at approximately 7:30 pm for a photo opportunity with the Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan, and the four inductees.

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