

**BACKGROUNDER:  
2014-15 Recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit**



**Mr. Jack Brodsky (Saskatoon)**

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Mr. Jack Brodsky, former co-owner, president and governor of the Saskatoon Blades hockey team is a well-respected community leader and businessman who has had a major positive impact on our province and our country. He serves as a member of the Saskatchewan Hockey Association (SHA) Board of Directors and was on the Executive Committee for most of his 21 years as a Governor in the Western Hockey League (WHL). He led successful bids for the 2010 World Junior Hockey Championship and the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup. This Memorial Cup committee partnered with the PotashCorp University Cup committee to create the Championship Legacy Fund to support KidSport Saskatoon and Dream Brokers, which assist underprivileged kids to participate in sports.

Mr. Brodsky has always believed that the Saskatoon Blades have a major role to play in the community. Under his tutelage, the Blades became leaders in the WHL in the level of support they provided to local minor hockey and charitable organizations. In addition to many donations, the Blades players and staff spent countless hours in the community supporting a wide variety of worthwhile causes.

Mr. Brodsky was a founding member of the committee that created the Saskatchewan Development Model, a unique partnership of elite hockey development leagues in Saskatchewan that ensures smooth movement of players through the system. He chaired the WHL Education Committee, ensuring that players achieve their academic goals and have an opportunity to pursue post-secondary education. More than 4,600 players have been awarded scholarships totaling \$9 million.

Mr. Brodsky has served on many boards including Saskatoon Sport Tourism and the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves on the boards of his Rotary Club and the Restorative Action Program (RAP) – a restorative justice program run in eight Saskatoon High Schools. He is Co-Chair of the Saskatchewan Hockey Hall of Fame, Past Chair of Saskatoon’s Prairieland Park, and Past Chair of Tourism Saskatchewan.

Mr. Brodsky received the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. Other awards include the B’nai Brith “We’re Proud of You” Award, the SABEX Hall of Fame Award and the Saskatoon Police Service 2011 Badge Award. Recently he was recognized by Saskatchewan Business Magazine as one of the Men of Influence in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Brodsky lives in Saskatoon with his wife Shirley. They have three children, John, David and Heather.

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**The Reverend Lorne Calvert (Saskatoon)**

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The Reverend Lorne Calvert was sworn into office on Feb. 8, 2001 as Saskatchewan's 13th Premier. Born in Moose Jaw, Mr. Calvert was educated in the province, receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Economics at the University of Regina and a Bachelor of Divinity at St. Andrew's College, University of Saskatchewan. Ordained by The United Church of Canada in 1976, he served as minister of the Gravelbourg Pastoral Charge and Zion United Church, Moose Jaw until 1986.

Mr. Calvert was first elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature in 1986 and re-elected in 1991 and 1995. In 1992, he was appointed to Cabinet as Associate Minister of Health and Minister responsible for the Wakamow Valley Authority. From 1992 to 1993, he served as Minister responsible for SaskPower and SaskEnergy, and sat as Deputy Chair of the Crown Corporations Committee and as a member of the Legislature's Standing Committee on the Environment. In 1995, he was appointed Minister of Health and thereafter Minister of Social Services, including Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission and Minister Responsible for Seniors. In 1997 the responsibility for Disabilities Issues was added to his portfolio. After a two year hiatus, he returned to politics and won the leadership of the New Democratic Party, subsequently becoming Premier of Saskatchewan. He was re-elected to the Legislature in a by-election in March 2001 and re-elected as Premier in 2003. Mr. Calvert announced his retirement as party leader on Oct. 16, 2008.

In his tenure as a Cabinet Minister and later Premier, he made valuable and lasting contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the province and its residents. His accomplishments include Building Independence, a major reform of social assistance; a universal Seniors Drug Plan; a provincial Green Strategy, including the introduction of wind generated electricity and a bio-fuels industry; an immigration strategy; and the significant reform of taxation, royalty and regulatory regimes, particularly in the oil, gas and potash sectors, to spur economic development and create jobs for Saskatchewan's young people.

In the summer of 2009, he became the Principal at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon where he inspires and educates our province's future spiritual and community leaders.

The Reverend Calvert lives in Saskatoon with his wife Betty. They have two children, David and Stephanie, and two grandchildren, Levi and Haven.

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**Dr. Wilfred Arthur Keller (Saskatoon)**

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Raised on a Saskatchewan farm, Dr. Wilf Keller studied at the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and then pursued post-graduate studies, earning his Ph.D. in Crop Science in 1972. Following his studies, he worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Max-Planck Institute in Tübingen, Germany and as a research scientist at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre in Ottawa. In 1989 he returned to Saskatchewan to join the National Research Council's (NRC) Plant Biotechnology Institute in Saskatoon.

At NRC, he served as group leader for Brassica Biotechnology, head of the Transgenic Plant Centre and Research Director and Acting Director General for the Plant Biotechnology Institute. Following his retirement from the NRC in 2008, Dr. Keller dedicated himself to the advancement of agricultural biotechnology as President and CEO of Genome Prairie and later as President and CEO of Ag-West Bio Inc.

Dr. Keller's commitment to the areas of research, management and promotion of agricultural biotechnology is world class. He led the development of new scientific protocols, which largely impacted the development of crops such as canola, mustard, broccoli and cabbage. Dr. Keller spearheaded the development, optimization and application of haploid production systems in canola, mustard and Brassica crops. His work in agricultural biotechnologies was a prerequisite to the development of the first herbicide tolerant canola variety in North America. In 2013, Saskatchewan produced 50 per cent of Canada's canola and was the nation's primary exporter of canola seed, oil and meal.

Dr. Keller has collaborated with numerous organizations to ensure scientific discoveries are quickly transformed into agricultural advantages for producers. He has published numerous papers and book chapters and more than 250 conference abstracts and multiple patents. He is the recipient of awards from the canola industry, as well as the National Research Council, the Rotary Club and Society for In-Vitro Biology (Lifetime Achievement Award).

Dr. Keller lives in Saskatoon with his wife Mary. They have two daughters, Jessalynn and Lorilee.

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**Ms. Anne Luke, M. Ed., LL.D. (Regina)**

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Ms. Anne Luke, trained as a primary school teacher in England, came to Saskatchewan in 1969 and led in the development of parent-supported kindergartens in rural Saskatchewan. In 1977, she left her teaching position in Regina and founded the Early Learning Centre (ELC). The ELC is a child and family development centre which works co-operatively with low-income families to provide programs which foster the healthy development of children from prenatal to five years of age.

In 2007, she stepped down as the Executive Director of ELC to coordinate a Capital Campaign to purchase and renovate the ELC's permanent home in the former Sacred Heart Academy in Regina. Today, the centre offers a variety of programs for children with approximately 200 families involved with the centre yearly, as well as outreach programs including KidsFirst and Parents as Teachers.

Ms. Luke has facilitated many workshops and adult training sessions in areas of child development and early childhood education. She has sat on the boards of the Welfare Rights Centre; the Advisory Committee for both Merici Centre and Sofia House; the Saskatchewan Council of Children, and the Minister's Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Board. She has been involved in Neighbourhood Watch and the evaluation and management committees of KidsFirst of Regina. She is currently a member of the Canadian Association for Young Children, Saskatchewan executive.

Ms. Luke is the recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal; President's Award, United Way of Regina; Friends of Children National Award, Fellowship of Man Charitable Foundation; Women of Distinction Award, Soroptimist International, Regina Branch; the Wascana Kiwanis Mother of the Year Award; and the Responsible Citizenship and Social Cohesion Award by the Intercultural Dialogue Institute in Regina. In 1997 she was awarded a fellowship from the Muttart Foundation, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Regina in 2009.

Ms. Luke lives in Regina with her husband Orland Beach. She has four children, Richard, Alastair, Robert and Kathryn, and three grandchildren, Sho, Alex, and Emily.

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**The Honourable William (Bill) McKnight, P.C., LL.D. (Saskatoon)**

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The Honourable Bill McKnight was born and raised in Wartime, Saskatchewan. Mr. McKnight served the constituents of Kindersley-Lloydminster as a Member of Parliament from 1979 to 1993. He served as minister in seven federal departments: Labour, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Western Economic Diversification, National Defence, Agriculture, and Energy, Mines and Resources. He also served as the first minister of the Department of Western Economic Diversification and as regional minister for Saskatchewan. Amongst other accomplishments, he was instrumental in spearheading and laying groundwork for the 1992 Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement.

In 2007, Mr. McKnight was appointed as the Treaty Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan and served in that position until 2012. In 2010 he brought political awareness to the important issue of Aboriginal education, appearing before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. As Commissioner, he oversaw the curriculum addition of a resource guide for teachers of kindergarten through Grade 12 to teach about treaties in all Saskatchewan schools. He also leveraged funding from the Government of Saskatchewan to develop curriculum materials on the history of the Dakota, their alliance with the British Crown and efforts to achieve equity with Treaty First Nations to ensure they are properly recognized.

The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation appointed Mr. McKnight the Honorary Chief of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and had a parcel of commercial land in Saskatoon named after him in recognition of his role in creating the first urban reserve in Canada. Mr. McKnight's values and roots are reflected most profoundly in what he considers the touchstone accomplishment of his career – the 1992 Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement.

Mr. McKnight was sworn of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada in 1984 and is the recipient of the Canada 125, Queen's Golden Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medals. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan in 2014.

Mr. McKnight lives in Saskatoon with his wife Beverly. They have two children, Rob and Torrie.

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**Ms. Yvette Moore (Moose Jaw)**

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Ms. Yvette Moore – primarily recognized as an artist, illustrator and gallery owner – is also a highly successful businesswoman and community leader in Moose Jaw. She developed a love of the Prairies while growing up on her family farm near Radville and her passion for the grasslands comes through in her detailed paintings and illustrations.

The Yvette Moore Gallery of Fine Arts and the Gallery Cafe presents her own work but also highlights the work of other artists and craftspeople from Saskatchewan. Her beautifully illustrated books “A Prairie Alphabet,” “A Prairie Year,” and “Heartland: a Prairie Sampler” have been reprinted numerous times and are nationally and internationally renowned.

Her involvement in the arts is exhibited by her service with several organizations, which included the Moose Jaw Arts in Motion Board, an organization that saw the restoration and development of the Mae Wilson Theatre. She also served on numerous boards including Tourism Moose Jaw, Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Tourism, the Saskatchewan Honours Advisory Council, Saskatchewan Women’s Entrepreneur and the Moose Jaw Heritage Advisory Board.

Ms. Moore served as the Honorary Colonel of 15 Wing Moose Jaw from 2007 to 2012. She was instrumental in assisting with the mounting of a Snowbird Tutor jet at the entrance to the City of Moose Jaw to mark the close relationship between the military and the city.

Ms. Moore is the recipient of the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, the Saskatchewan Women’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2005, Saskatchewan Tourism Award for Creative Excellence in 2004, Moose Jaw Citizen of the Year in 1999 and the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year Award in 2013. She was also the featured artist at the 2008 Calgary Stampede. In 1993, Ms. Moore was awarded the Mr. Christie Award for Best Illustrations in Canadian Children’s literature.

Ms. Moore lives in Moose Jaw. She has four children, Tyler, Rynette, Chantelle and Sarah, and seven grandchildren, Bailey, Emma, Lane, Ireland, Zaid, Ellah and Dillon.

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**Maestro Victor Sawa (Regina)**

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Maestro Victor Sawa has been the face of the Regina Symphony Orchestra (RSO) since 1997 and has played a major role in ensuring that the art and performance of live orchestral music is available to every citizen of every generation of our province.

His first concert was "Mozart at Mission Ridge," an outdoor concert in the Qu'Appelle Valley where the entire RSO presented a classical and Broadway music show, including fireworks accompanying the 1812 Overture. This road trip was followed by others, including "Beethoven at Buffalo Pound" and "Symphony Under the Sky" in Wascana Park.

He established the Wascana Pops concert series followed by a Baroque series, which was performed in a variety of churches throughout Regina, reaching out and attracting those who would not ordinarily attend a symphony performance.

The RSO's Masterworks series of traditional classics changed drastically with Maestro Sawa's non-traditional explanations of the program prior to performances that included anecdotes and humorous insights, enabling everyone to understand complex orchestral music and movements, while changing serious musical experiences to fun experiences of serious music.

Recently he has taken his love for classical music to Saskatoon as the conductor of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO).

His commitment to the community is evident through his involvement with service club presentations, university music and journalism department events and as a huge supporter of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

A Grammy Award winning Maestro, he has been recognized with many other awards, including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, as well as the Grand Prix du Disque for Best Chamber Music Recording, Outstanding Musician Award at the Tanglewood Music Festival in Massachusetts, and three times with the Canada Council Award for conducting.

He has performed at the Smithsonian Institute, the White House and for Royalty, most recently The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall in 2012.

Maestro Sawa lives in Regina with his wife Lesley. They have three children, son Jake, daughters Mariko and Michiko.

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**Ms. Ellen Schmeiser, Q.C. (Saskatoon)**

In 1957, Ellen Schmeiser graduated with great distinction from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, the only woman to graduate that year. She received the gold medal for the top grades in her class and went on to achieve the highest average in the Bar Admission examinations.

In 1974, following a period of practice with a Saskatoon firm, she was appointed the first Director of Research at the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, where she drafted recommendations and model legislation, lectured and conducted workshops throughout the province. As a special advisor on matrimonial property to the Saskatchewan Department of the Attorney General in 1978, she prepared recommendations for legislation that led to the enactment of *The Matrimonial Property Act* in 1980. This *Act* was regarded by many as the most progressive legislation of its kind in the country and became a model for other provinces.

Ms. Schmeiser's leadership and dedication to equality and human rights issues guided the development of a training program for Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission personnel. Ultimately she was recognized at the federal level when she was appointed in 1978 as a founding Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, representing the three Prairie provinces.

Ms. Schmeiser served as an Associate Professor in the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, and as an executive member and President of the Saskatoon Bar Association. She served eight years as the Director of Continuing Legal Education for the Law Society of Saskatchewan, during which time she also administered the Bar Admission Course and Bar Examinations.

Ms. Schmeiser received her Queen's Counsel designation in 1988. In 1992, she was appointed Judge of the Provincial Court, serving in Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon. She is the recipient of a Soroptimist International Club "Women Helping Women" award, and was the Western Canadian Award Winner and Speaker for her work on matrimonial property law in Saskatchewan at the Soroptimist International of the Americas 27th Biennial Convention.

Ms. Schmeiser lives in Saskatoon. She is the mother of six children and a grandmother of 11.



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**Dr. David E. Smith, O.C., F.R.S.C. (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. - previously Saskatoon & Regina)**

University of Saskatchewan Professor Emeritus Dr. David E. Smith is a teacher and scholar of great distinction. Dr. Smith spent his entire professional academic career in Saskatchewan, as a professor in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and later as Senior Policy Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina. In 2012, Dr. Smith retired and now resides in Ontario where his academic output continues to be remarkable.

Dr. Smith chose to make his contribution to education in Saskatchewan by shaping the thinking of thousands of Saskatchewan post-secondary students; through his writing he brought national and international attention to scholarship in Saskatchewan. Dr. Smith used his writing to advance Saskatchewan's voice and drive home the realization that to know the West is to know Canada. His work is deeply rooted in the Prairie, bringing Saskatchewan political history into the mainstream of Canadian political science. He is credited with producing the definitive works on each of the major institutions of the Canadian government, such as the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons, and recently completed a book on the history of the Official Opposition in this country.

Other landmark publications include "Prairie Liberalism: The Liberal Party in Saskatchewan," "Jimmy Gardiner: Relentless Liberal," and "The Invisible Crown: The First Principle of Canadian Government."

Dr. Smith has served on numerous boards, advisory committees and panels, including the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, the Saskatchewan Archives Board, the Royal Society of Canada and Forum for Young Canadians.

He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, the recipient of the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is also a recipient of the Jules & Gabrielle Léger and the Killam Research Fellowships. He has received the Distinguished Researcher Award at the University of Saskatchewan and also received an Honorary Doctorate from Ryerson University. His acclaimed writings have garnered the Donner Prize (2007) for his book "The People's House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention" and the Canada Prize in Social Sciences (2014) for the book "Across The Aisle: Opposition in Canadian Politics."

Dr. Smith lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake with his wife, the Honourable Gene Anne Smith, former Justice of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. They have two adult children, Joshua and Sarah, and three grandchildren, Emma, Deanna and Ryder.

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**Mr. Henry Woolf, LL.D. (Saskatoon)**

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In 1983, after a very full career in theatre, television and film, Henry Woolf came to Saskatchewan to take up a position at the University of Saskatchewan's Drama Department. He has made a significant contribution to the generations of writers, actors, directors and other theatre professionals whose careers he has helped launch and shape.

Educated at the University of London, University of Bristol, and the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia, it was in 1957, while doing his directing course at Bristol, that he commissioned and directed Harold Pinter's first play, *The Room*. He has had various performances on the London stage with leading directors and actors and more recently has appeared in *Monologue*, 2007, Leeds; *Waiting for Godot*, Persephone Theatre, 2008; *The Merchant of Venice*, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, 2009; and *The Caretaker*, Persephone Theatre, 2011.

He has lectured on playwrights both nationally and internationally and in 1988 directed a production of his play *Steer Clear of Kafka* for 25th Street Theatre in Saskatoon. In 1997 his play *Bim and Bub* had its world premiere at the same theatre.

In 1991, Mr. Woolf took on the leadership of Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan and helped re-establish it so that it flourishes to this day as an integral part of Saskatoon's cultural life. He served as its Artistic Director until 2000.

Other accomplishments include numerous film credits like *The Lion in Winter*, 1968; *The Marat Sade*, 1964; *Catherine The Great*, 1979; and *Tell Me Lies*, 1970. Television works include *The Sweeny*, 1975; *Doctor Who*, *The Sun Makers*, 1977; and *Monologue*, 1973; and selected original scripts, including *Johesus*, *Experiments with Watercress* and *Beowulf and the Bush Pilot*, CBC Radio.

Mr. Woolf is the recipient of the Master Teacher Award and Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and a recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. In 2008, the Saskatoon Area and Theatre Awards honored him by naming one of their awards after him, namely the Henry Woolf Award for Continuing Achievement.

Mr. Woolf lives in Saskatoon with his wife Susan. They have four children, Marie, Sebastian, Hilda and Benjamin, and eight grandchildren.