

Saskatchewan Order of Merit 2019 Recipients

Don Atchison

Mr. Atchison has demonstrated very strong leadership to make “Saskatoon Shine” beyond its boundaries and become the envy of many other municipal jurisdictions. In particular, his 13 years of leadership saw the city of Saskatoon grow from a population of 180,000 to in excess of 250,000. The commitment he exhibited to the city of Saskatoon was profound. He continually advanced the city’s interests and understood that to progress and grow a community, partnering with neighbours is imperative. He promoted the city and the residents by attending over 10,000 community events, meetings and celebrated cultural diversity. Resulting from his vision and leadership the city built a state of the art police station, a world class art gallery, three new bridges, a renovated children’s park, indoor soccer field, world class swimming centre, River Landing, and much more.

Don was a “people’s mayor” as he was always available to bring greetings on behalf of the city, to welcome visitors, and encourage residents to adopt a slogan of “Yes We Can”. His greetings were delivered with passion, enthusiasm, excitement, and with a memorable message.

Don Atchison
306-651-7700
Saskatoon

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Doug Cuthand

Mr. Cuthand has made it his mission in life to bridge gaps between all cultures and to educate the people of Saskatchewan and Canada on who we are as Indigenous people. Doug was the host of a weekly current affairs show “Indigenous Circle” and now has a weekly column for Saskatoon’s StarPhoenix newspaper and the Regina LeaderPost newspaper. In doing so, he successfully captures the current issues facing First Nations and Métis people of our province. His wisdom, education, and humour shine through in everything he writes. Not everyone will agree with his editorials and he is well aware of that and welcomes criticism freely.

In 1987 Doug began documentary work and started Blue Hill Productions. The name Blue Hill came from an historic site (landmark) located on the Little Pine First Nation. Over the years Blue Hill has grown to become one of the leading First Nations production companies in the country, with a long list of awards and accomplishments.

Doug is a man of truth and integrity. His words and actions have managed to help Canadians reconcile. When we think about truth and reconciliation, we should remember that Doug has led the way and will continue to do so for many years.

Doug Cuthand
306-222-7193
Saskatoon

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Grit McCreath

Ms. McCreath has been a positive force for the education, development, empowerment, and recognition of others wherever she has lived. As a teacher, school administrator, mentor, author, editor, director on many public service boards, and as a community leader, she has exemplified the best values of someone who has never really left Saskatchewan. She is a former member of the University of Saskatchewan Senate, was a member of the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors, previous Chair of the Human Resources Committee, member of the Land and Facilities and Audit Committees, and named first Honorary Ambassador for the University in 2015, a position she currently holds.

Over the course of five decades (1969-2001), she has been deeply involved with and committed to education as a teacher, department head, teacher-librarian, teacher-mentor, and school administrator. Her family has for the past seven years funded the "McCreath Aboriginal Scholarship" for Indigenous female students at the Edwards School of Business, funding one student per year, and in 2018/19 is supporting three women who are seeking their Bachelor of Commerce degrees. Advisor to the College of Education she and her husband Scott, have funded the completion of a state-of-the-art Active Learning Classroom. Grit has been a donor to the Remai Modern/Mendel Gallery in Saskatoon for over 25 years.

Grit is a retired member of the Waskesiu Foundation Board, a charitable organization supporting recreational, social, cultural, and environmental activities of the Prince Albert National Park. She has co-authored a book titled Waskesiu and its Neighbours: A Casual Illustrated History, which was nominated for a 2009 Saskatchewan Book Publishing Award and became a Saskatchewan best-seller. All profits from the book are being contributed to the Waskesiu Foundation.

Grit McCreath
403-804-5536
Calgary

Saskatchewan Order of Merit 2019 Recipients

Lyn Goldman, LL.D.

Ms. Goldman has been a patron of, and tireless worker for the arts community in Regina and across the province. She recently made a large philanthropic donation to the MacKenzie Art Gallery, which will permit the Gallery to expand their collection. Most notably, for several years, Lyn has supported the redevelopment of the College Avenue Campus of the University of Regina and the restoration of Darke Hall. She has served as a resource to and has advocated on behalf of this project from the beginning. Lyn received the University of Regina's highest honour, an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 2015, for her dedicated service to the university and to the wider community. Her efforts have enriched the lives of so many people in the province.

Lyn and her family established the Dorothy and Leon Goldman scholarships in English, Journalism, Theatre, and Music at the University of Regina. In addition to Lyn's contributions to the University of Regina, where she worked for 20 years, she supports many other efforts in the Saskatchewan community.

Lyn Goldman
306-522-3798
Regina

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Andy Potter, FCAHS

Dr. Potter has made outstanding contributions to the province of Saskatchewan over the course of his 34-year career. Not only has he done stellar infectious disease and vaccine research, he also in his 11 and a half years as Director and CEO of VIDO-InterVac, has built the organization to its current stature as one of North America's largest vaccine and infectious disease research institutes. He has been directly responsible for leading the incorporation of InterVac, the International Vaccine Centre, into VIDO, work which brought to the province one of the largest, most advanced containment Level 3 facilities in the world and that also provides the infrastructure to safely study infectious diseases and develop vaccines to protect against these emerging threats.

Alongside his work to promote and enable world changing research from within the province, Dr. Potter's efforts have brought considerable economic prosperity. The list of major initiatives that he has led and that have brought jobs, funding, and international accolades to Saskatchewan is long. With all these contributions, Dr. Potter has led the way in promoting Canadian health innovation, enabling the commercialization of these innovations, and positioning the health research community of Saskatchewan at the forefront of this effort.

Andy Potter
306-241-3885
Saskatoon

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William F. Ready, Q.C., B.A., J.D., LL.D.

Dr. William F. Ready practiced law in Regina for nearly 50 years. He has been a Queen's Counsel since 1967 and in 1990, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Branch.

He has been active in a number of organizations in the community, including serving as president of the Regina Symphony Orchestra and as chair of the Regina Citizens' Advisory of the Salvation Army. As a member of the Regina Board of Education for 11 years, he participated in the introduction of many innovative programs, benefitting students and their parents. In recognition of his contributions to education in Regina, W.F. Ready School was named in his honour in 1984.

As Chancellor of the University of Regina, Dr. Ready presided over convocation ceremonies, chaired Senate meetings and served as a member of the Board of Governors. In his two terms as Chancellor, he conferred more than 13,500 degrees, diplomas and certificates. He has championed several building initiatives at the university, including the new residences and the revitalization of the College Avenue Campus.

Dr. Ready's commitment to service, to education and to Saskatchewan are significant. He is a humble and unassuming leader, a role model and mentor to many and, above all, is described by his colleagues and friends as a true gentleman.

William F. Ready
306-586-2780
Regina