

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion wins national City Prosperity Award

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Toronto, Ontario – The 88-year-old Mayor of Mississauga, known affectionately across Canada as Hurricane Hazel for her unyielding drive and ambition in building Canada's sixth largest city, has won the Canadian Urban Institute's (CUI) 2009 City Prosperity Award to be presented June 5th in Toronto at the Urban Leadership Awards (ULA).

"This award is given to those individuals or organizations in this country that build a city's capacity to generate wealth and enable its people to benefit from the strength and development of the local and regional economy," said CUI President and CEO Glen Murray. "There's no doubt after three decades as a public servant Mayor Hazel McCallion has created a dynamic Mississauga, but also driven hard to put Canadian cities on the provincial and federal agenda. And for that, and so much more, we appreciate her unwavering leadership and vision."

About 500 elite members of Canada's who's who of city building will gather in Toronto on June 5 to honour Mississauga and Mayor Hazel McCallion, (<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/mayorsoffice>) as well as 17 other groups and individuals embed link to page (www.canurb.com/awards/ula/leadershipawards2009.php) across the country who are making Canadian cities exciting and dynamic places to live and work.

While her achievements are long, Mayor McCallion most recently championed the role of cities by creating the *Mississauga Matters* campaign to raise municipal affairs as an issue during the Ontario provincial election. She also created the *Cities NOW* public campaign to educate Mississauga residents, businesses and cities across Canada about the need for sustainable provincial and federal funding for municipal infrastructure, which managed to earn over 55 million media hits.

Her constituents describe her as a grassroots worker and a "People's Mayor" who has never lost sight of the fact that she works for the citizens of Mississauga. She has led a council and public administration that has managed to create a fiscally sound municipal government that has no debt and \$600 million in reserve.

Mayor McCallion has won 11 elections and celebrated her 31st year as Mayor with 92 per cent of the vote. She said the CUI City Prosperity Award shows other municipal leaders that they have a role beyond the boundaries of their city and can help advance the importance of cities on the provincial and national stage.

"The Prosperity Award means a great deal to me," said Mayor Hazel McCallion. "The work the Canadian Urban Institute does makes a difference in improving the lives of those living in urban centres. It is so important that cities develop strong economies. Our goal in Mississauga is to ensure that residents and businesses prosper as the City becomes a global centre where creativity and innovation thrive and people of all walks of life are welcome."

The Urban Leadership Awards (ULA) Program honours Canadian individuals, groups and organizations that have made significant contributions to improving the quality of life in Canada's cities and urban regions. The 2009 ULA's have been made possible by the generous support of a variety of corporate sponsors including Gold Sponsors Loblaw Properties Ltd., Scotiabank, TD Bank Financial Group, the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Environics, the City of Toronto, GE Canada and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). Community Builder Sponsors include Toronto Hydro, Local 27 of the Union of Carpenters and Allied Workers, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Great West Life, London Life and Canada Life Assurance Companies.

The judges for this year's awards included Canadians who have dedicated their lives to public service and who have detailed knowledge of the local stories and triumphs of Canadians in their home communities. Under the chairmanship of the Hon. David Crombie, the committee included; Al Duerr, former Mayor of Calgary; Newfoundland's Dr. Linda Inkpen; Dr. Antonia Maioni, Director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada; John Kim Bell, founder of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation; Ms. Mitzie Hunter, a Vice President at Goodwill Industries; and, Dr. Nola Kate Seymoar, President and CEO, International Centre for Sustainable Cities, based in British Columbia.

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in urban areas

across Canada and throughout the world.

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Some facts about Mississauga and Mayor Hazel McCallion, C.M.

- Formed in 1974, Mississauga is now recognized as Canada's 6th largest and fastest growing major city with a population of 700,000 residents representing cultures from around the world
- Home to more than 50,000 businesses and a major employment centre within the GTA, Mississauga houses 59 of Canada's Fortune 500 head offices providing residents with an opportunity to work close to home.
- From stunning architecture and museums to lakefront parks and vibrant ethnic neighbourhoods, Mississauga offers a range of experiences.
- Mayor McCallion was appointed Member of the Order of Canada on November 18, 2005.
- Mayor McCallion was recognized as the CNW Communicator of the Year by the Toronto Chapter of the international association of Business Communicators (IABC).
- Mayor McCallion was named 2007 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 by the Women's Executive Network, and was presented with a Trailblazers and Trendsetters award.