



NEWS RELEASE

November 22, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Education champions announced

Former Prime Minister Paul Martin and education advocate Roberta Jamieson named as co-recipients of 5th Annual Egerton Ryerson Award

TORONTO (November 22, 2011) – People for Education announced today that Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, and the Right Honourable Paul Martin will receive this year's *Egerton Ryerson Award for Dedication to Public Education*. The two will be honoured at a reception on November 28th. Ontario's Minister of Education, Chief Shawn Atleo, Phil Fontaine and Margaret Norrie McCain will be among those honouring the recipients at a reception hosted by Valerie Pringle on November 28th.

Recipients are champions for Aboriginal children and youth

Jamieson and Martin are being honoured for their work to improve education for Aboriginal children and youth.

Roberta Jamieson was the first First Nations woman to earn a law degree; the first non-parliamentarian to be appointed an ex-officio member of a House of Commons Committee; the first woman to be appointed Ombudsman of Ontario; and in December 2001, she was the first woman to be elected Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is currently the CEO and President of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Mr. Martin leads the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, which is focused on reducing the Aboriginal youth dropout rate and increasing the number of Aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutions. Mr. Martin also founded the Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship Fund, whose investments seek to further a culture of economic independence, ownership and entrepreneurship amongst both on and off reserve Aboriginal peoples.

People for Education to expand its work

"There is shameful gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students both in terms of achievement and available resources," says Annie Kidder, Executive Director of People for Education. "And it must be an issue for all of us. We hope that by honouring these two people who have done so much to bring about real change for Aboriginal children and youth, we will add more champions to the fight for a more just society."

Ceremony at Royal Bank Plaza

The Egerton Ryerson Award, named for the founder of Canada's public education system, was established in 2007 by People for Education. The ceremony to honour Mr. Martin and Ms. Jamieson will take place at a reception on November 28th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the 40th Floor of the Royal Bank Plaza.

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