June 20, 2016

**Noted academic awarded the Medal of Excellence**

Edmonton – MacEwan University is pleased to announce that Dr. Fred Fletcher is one of four individuals selected to receive a Medal of Excellence during the Spring Convocation ceremonies. The Medals of Excellence are awarded to individuals from the broader community for their outstanding contributions and achievements. These individuals have contributed extensively to the quality of life in our city and beyond.

Fletcher has worked for three Royal Commissions, most recently as the research coordinator - media and elections for the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform and Party Financing. He was a Senior Researcher for the Royal Commission on Newspapers and contributed to an earlier Commission on the Canadian economy. Fletcher was also the founding President of the Canadian Media Research Consortium that commissioned many important works on the future of traditional media in the digital age.

Fletcher has published seven books, technical papers, and journal articles, most on media-related issues. Among his publications are pioneering studies of the Ontario Legislative Press Gallery, the Ottawa Press Gallery, news coverage of election campaigns in Canada, election campaign advertising, communication policy and regulatory issues.

As a consultant, he has conducted research for and advised many of Canada’s major news organizations, various departments of the federal government, including Elections Canada, as well as three provincial governments. In 2010 he was a consultant on the news balance study (a comprehensive content analysis of CBC news reporting). Fletcher has also served as a court-recognized expert witness in a number of constitutional cases related to election law and information and media issues.

Before joining York University, Fletcher taught at the University of Washington. He has also been a visiting scholar at the University of Toronto and has presented special lectures at the University of Michigan, Harvard University, Queen’s University, Trent University and Simon Fraser University.

Fletcher will receive his Medal of Excellence on June 21 during the 3:00 convocation ceremony.

*Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.*