June 17, 2016

**Distinguished editor awarded the Medal of Excellence**

Edmonton – MacEwan University is pleased to announce that James Marsh 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.

Marsh is a distinguished editor and writer who has made a major contribution to Canada’s knowledge of itself and its history. He was the founding editor and long-time Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Encyclopedia* and brought together thousands of scholars and writers from across Canada in the creation of the single greatest summation of the elusive Canadian identity.

In 1970, renowned Canadian publisher Jack McClelland and the Institute of Canadian Studies at Carleton University, hired Marsh to be the editor of the Carleton Library, a series of scholarly works on Canadian history and social science. In a period spanning ten years he edited 80 volumes in the series and co-authored his first major book, *New Beginnings, A Social History of Canada*.

After a national search, Edmonton publisher Mel Hurtig brought Marsh from Ottawa to Edmonton in 1980 to be the Editor-in-Chief of *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. Marsh drew up plans to Canada’s first comprehensive encyclopedia and hired 40 staff, 200 consultants and contracted several thousand contributors. The ambitious project, comprised of four million words, was published in September 1985 to laudatory reviews and commercial success.

Marsh is a member of the Order of Canada and was awarded the Lorne Dawson Centenary Medal of the Royal Society of Canada in recognition of his achievement in producing *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, as well as the Alberta Centennial Medal for Albertans who have made “significant contributions to their fellow citizens.”

Marsh will receive the Medal of Excellence on June 22 during at 9:30 a.m.

*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.*

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