Media Release

June 14, 2010

EDMONTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HONOURED AS A
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

Edmonton—Grant MacEwan University will confer an Honorary Bachelor of Arts degree to the Edmonton Community Foundation as a Distinguished Citizen.

Over the past 20 years, Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) has gained a reputation in the community for building bridges between donors' wishes and the needs of charities. Created through an Act of the Legislature of Alberta in 1971, the ECF came to life in 1989.

That year, John and Barbara Poole, George and Rae Poole, and Robert and Shirley Stollery offered a $5 million gift to the Community Fund on behalf of their families. Within a year, the board – under the leadership of founding president, Bob Stollery – realized the Foundation needed an executive director. Lorne Leitch served in that position from 1990 to 1992, when he was replaced by Bill Mathewson, who served until 1994. Former Edmonton Police Chief Doug McNally served from 1994 until 2005, significantly expanding the presence and profile of the Foundation. In 2005, Martin Garber-Conrad joined the organization as executive director after earning community-wide respect for his work at E4C.

Following the example of the Poole and Stollery families, generous donors have added strength and depth to the Foundation throughout its years of operation – Dr. Francis Winspear donated a total of $4.5 million in assets and an additional $4.5 million, Alison B. Rice contributed $5 million in total, and an anonymous donor gifted $21 million in 2001, the largest single cash gift ever received by a community foundation in Canada.

The Foundation’s achievements over the past two decades are impressive making it Canada’s fourth largest community foundation.

The Distinguished Citizen Honorary Bachelor of Arts
First awarded in 1972 to the Honourable Dr. J.W. Grant MacEwan, the Distinguished Citizen award is MacEwan’s highest tribute to individuals or groups who reflect the university’s mission and fundamental values. At its annual Convocation ceremony, MacEwan awards an honorary Bachelor of Arts to distinguished citizens who have made outstanding and significant contributions to MacEwan, the communities we serve, and/or the institution’s programming or service areas.

The Edmonton Community Foundation will receive the Honorary Bachelor of Arts degree during the 10:00 a.m. Convocation ceremony on Friday, June 18.

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