



Pioneer and Politician

Honourable William A. Black to be Inducted Posthumously into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2007

Halifax, NS – Today, the second of three laureates to be inducted into this year's Junior Achievement Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame was announced. Honourable William A. Black is being recognized posthumously for his contributions to public life and the Nova Scotia shipping industry.

In 1875, 28-year-old Black founded Pickford and Black, a supplier of ship provisions, with partner Robert Pickford. Over the next 10 years, Pickford and Black fast became the busiest place on the Halifax waterfront, eventually getting involved in shipping and steamships. The company obtained a subsidy from the Canadian government for the carriage of freight and passengers between Halifax and Boston and eventually began making monthly voyages to Bermuda, the Turk Islands, Santiago and Jamaica.

After becoming an undisputed success in the shipping trade, Black turned his attention to another industry. In 1922, he co-founded The Maritime Life Assurance Company, the first life insurance company in the region. Maritime Life went on to become a nationally ranked company, with offices across the country and, for five consecutive years, was named one of the "Top 50 Companies to Work for in Canada".

During the later part of his life, Black also lent his business savvy and leadership skills to several other east coast operations. Appointed a Director of the Royal Bank, he also served as President of Eastern Canada Savings and Loan and Vice President of Eastern Trust. In 1924, Black endowed a chair of commerce at Dalhousie University.

Although he spent the better part of 50 years guiding companies in the private sector, Black also had a keen desire to serve his fellow Haligonians through

public service. He sat as a member of the Provincial House of Assembly for his riding in Halifax for three years beginning in 1894.

In 1923, he was elected in a byelection to Parliament as an expression of the Maritime Rights Movement becoming, at his death, the oldest person ever to sit in the House of Commons. The skills that had served Black so well in the business world also proved helpful within the public sector. Constituents admired his leadership, strong work ethic and determination and Black was re-elected three times: in 1925, 1926 and 1930. In 1926, he was also appointed Minister of Railways and Canals, as well as Acting Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Black passed away in September of 1934, a month before his 87th birthday. Pre-deceased by his wife Annie (Bell) and children Olive and Samuel and survived by children Walter, Muriel and Kathleen, Black will long be remembered as one of Nova Scotia's most influential businessmen of the early 20th century.

Black is the second of three laureates announced this year, joining CCL Group Chairman and CEO Steve Parker, as well as a yet unnamed father and son team.

The Junior Achievement Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame recognizes the accomplishments of business leaders in Nova Scotia and also aims to inspire the young people Junior Achievement works with to pursue careers in business. Since 1993, the Hall of Fame event has raised over \$1 million in Nova Scotia for Junior Achievement. This year's induction dinner is being held Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. To order tickets, please contact Lynn Coveyduck at (902) 454-4564.

-- 30 --

For more information on Honourable WA Black, contact:

Walter Thompson
Family Member
(902) 429-7772

For more information on Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia, contact:

Lynn Coveyduck
President & CEO
Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia
(902) 454-4564