

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs Awards the 2009 Couchiching Public Policy Award to the Honourable Lincoln Alexander**



**Toronto ON, August 11, 2009** - The Honourable Lincoln Alexander has been awarded the 2009 Couchiching Public Policy Award for his lifelong work towards the creation of a socially just and diverse society. This award is presented annually to a nationally recognized Canadian who has demonstrated a particular kind of leadership; someone who has made an impact in public policy for Canada or for a community, often in the face of public opposition.

Motivated by his continuing concern for social justice, he has led an exemplary life as a lawyer, politician and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. He has broken many barriers during his lifetime. Known for his good judgment, tolerance, compassion and humanity, he has served the citizens of Ontario well, striving to instill these values in young people and working tirelessly for improved race relations.

#### **About the Honourable Lincoln Alexander**

Mr. Alexander served as Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario from 1985 to 1991. He was a Member of Parliament from 1968 to 1980 and served as federal Minister of Labour in 1979. A Companion of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the Order of Ontario, Mr. Alexander has served on numerous public service boards including the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and on the Ontario Press Council.

He is currently Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Guelph, and Chairman of the Raptors Foundation. He continues to serve on public and private boards and as Patron of many charitable organizations. Mr. Alexander's memoir, entitled "Go to School, You're A Little Black Boy", chronicling his remarkable life, was published in the Fall of 2006.

Mr. Alexander presently serves on the Board of the University of Guelph and fifth term as Chancellor. He also serves on the Boards of Doctor's Hospital, the Shaw Festival and The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Mr. Alexander is also a consultant to the Board of George Weston Ltd. and serves on the Board of Canadian Banking Ombudsman and the Chamber Works Ensemble of Hamilton.

Mr. Alexander has received numerous honours and awards including: The Government of Ontario Award for Outstanding Achievement in Human Rights, 1998; The Vice-Regal Badge, Presented by the Lieutenant Governor, 2000 and The Golden Jubilee Medal, Presented by the Governor General, 2002. He has also received the Degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from the University of Toronto (1986), McMaster University (1978), the University of Western Ontario (1988), York University (1990), Royal Military College (1991) and Queen's University (1992).

### **About the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs**

The Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs is Canada's oldest public affairs forum and is a crucible of provocative questions, creative ideas and divergent discussions that are the product of the collective contributions of all who attend. For more information about the Institute please visit <http://www.couch.ca>.

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