



## Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

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### Government Honours 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Persons Case

For immediate release

**Ottawa, October 20, 2009** – October 18, 2009 marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Persons Case, in which women in Canada were officially recognized as persons under the law. To honour the importance of the landmark case Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following statement:

“On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Persons Case. On October 18, 1929, women were legally deemed to be persons, paving the way for full participation in public life. This landmark decision changed the course of history for women in Canada.

“In 1979, the Government of Canada instituted the Governor General’s Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case to honour the ongoing contributions of women. On October 1, 2009, six exemplary Canadians received these awards; Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Daphne Dumont, Bev LeFrancois, Karen Messing, Mary Scott and Pauline Fogarty have all worked to improve the lives of women across Canada.

“As we celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Persons Case, we also recognize the outstanding actions of women across Canada who are making our country a better place for all of us.”

Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, along with other government officials, reflected on the importance of this anniversary.

“It is hard for many of us to imagine a reality where women were not viewed as persons,” stated Dr. Carrie. “However, there are many Canadians alive today who lived in such a reality. The anniversary is a reminder to all Canadians not to take the rights we enjoy today for granted. Today, we honour Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Nellie McClung for their struggle and commitment to promote equality and justice for all Canadians,” concluded Dr. Carrie.

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#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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