



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MARILOU McPHEDRAN NAMED NEW GLOBAL COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

*UWinnipeg welcomes home distinguished human rights advocate;
C.P. Loewen Family Foundation donates over a quarter million \$*

UW RELEASE – 2008/057

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008

WINNIPEG, MB – The University of Winnipeg is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Marilou McPhedran** to the position of **Principal of the Global College**, effective mid-June 2008.

A dedicated human rights advocate, Dr. McPhedran has been recognized for her work nationally and internationally, with medals from the **Governor General** and **Queen's Jubilee** and induction into the **Order of Canada**. Currently she serves as **Chief Commissioner, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission**. Hiring of this vital leadership position is possible through a **supporting grant of \$290,000** from the **C.P. Loewen Family Foundation**, of which \$ 240,000 has been allocated to Global College, and \$50,000 over four years has been allocated for Mennonite Studies fellowships.

Dr. McPhedran has a strong connection to UWinnipeg, where she attended and served as **President of the University of Winnipeg Students Association** when she was 19 years-old.

"We are privileged to have one of our most distinguished alumnus returning home to advance the vision of Global College," said **Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Winnipeg**. "Dr. McPhedran's untiring dedication in advancing the rights of women, children, the homeless and tackling systemic barriers is truly inspiring. Thanks to the C.P. Loewen Family Foundation, we have been able to find the ideal candidate to lead Global College initiatives."

Dr. McPhedran has an accomplished university background and in the past decade has been based at York University, the University of Victoria, and most recently, the University of Saskatchewan, where in January, 2007, she was appointed as the **Arial Sallows Chair in International Human Rights**, in the College of Law.*

"I've spent my life building rights-based organizations, and coming back to the University of Winnipeg to lead the innovative Global College is truly a dream come true. When asked 'where are you from' I have always replied 'Manitoba' regardless of where I was living at the time. When the UN was being founded, Eleanor Roosevelt asked, 'where do universal human rights begin', and she answered, 'close to home' because if human rights do not have meaning there, they do not have meaning anywhere. I'm honoured and delighted to be coming home to further human rights by leading the Global College. I thank the Loewen Family Foundation, UWinnipeg, and President Axworthy for entrusting me with this wonderful opportunity."

"The C.P. Loewen Family Foundation is pleased to make this strategic investment in advancing the mission of the Global College," said **John Loewen, President, C.P. Loewen Family**

Foundation. "Our goal is to nurture the strength and vibrancy of people, of communities, and of societies. The role of leadership in issues of global importance is critical to our ability to make positive strides in improving the lives of individuals and strengthening the fabric of the communities in which they live and work."

"These generous gifts by the C.P. Loewen Family Foundation will enable substantial progress towards Loewen Family Foundation and UWinnipeg Global College's shared commitment to individuals, community, and the environment. We are thankful for this leading donation to The University of Winnipeg's 'A World of Opportunity' Capital Campaign," said **Campaign Chair R.M. (Bob) Kozminski.**

Last month, Global College launched a new BA degree in Human Rights & Global Studies, the first of its kind in Western Canada. Find out more about Global College at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/global-college-index>.

The C.P. Loewen Family Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of charitable causes in the areas of education, faith, respect and tolerance, poverty alleviation and environment. Loewen, located in Southeast Manitoba, employs 1500 people in the manufacturing and distribution of a premier line of Douglas Fir and Mahogany window and door products. A privately held Canadian corporation, Loewen distributes its products around the world with a focus on the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and Latin America. Loewen celebrated its Centennial year in business in 2005.

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The University of Winnipeg is one of Canada's leading post-secondary institutions. Consistently ranked in the Top-10 in the country on an annual basis by both *Maclean's Magazine* and *The Globe & Mail* newspaper, the University of Winnipeg is a leader in academic excellence, Aboriginal education, environmental studies & sustainability, and theatre & the arts. The University of Winnipeg is committed to improving access to post-secondary education for all individuals, especially those people from non-traditional communities. Find out more by visiting www.uwinnipeg.ca.

*Biography and photo of Dr. McPhedran included.

TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. MARILOU McPHEDRAN CONTACT:

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BIOGRAPHY: MARILOU McPHEDRAN

Born and raised in rural Manitoba, called to the Bar of Ontario, the youngest lawyer to be named a Member of the Order of Canada (in 1985) in recognition of her co-leadership in the successful campaign for stronger gender equality protections in the Canadian constitution, Marilou McPhedran has specialized in starting, fundraising, designing, managing and sustaining mechanisms to promote equality and diversity for Canadian and international clients, having co-founded several internationally recognized non-profit systemic change organizations, such as LEAF – the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, which has conducted constitutional equality test cases and interventions for more than 20 years; METRAC – the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children; and the "always open" Gerstein Crisis Centre for homeless discharged psychiatric patients. She is a pioneer in research and advocacy to counter human rights violations through systemic reform – in law, medicine, education, government. She founded the International Women's Rights Project – based on two of her intergenerational models: "evidence based advocacy" and "lived rights". As chief executive officer of a federal center of excellence for women's health, she directed staff and programs including a cyber research network; she has chaired two public inquiries into the sexual abuse of patients; and she has co-investigated and co-authored social justice research, including: the ten country

pilot study to assess impact of the UN *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) completed in 2000; *What about accountability to the patient?* published in 2001; the *National Study on Rural, Remote and Northern Women's Health in Canada*, completed in 2003; and the textbook, *Preventing Sexual Abuse: a Legal Guide for Health Care Professionals* published in 2004.

Marilou McPhedran holds a Masters in Law in Comparative Constitutional Law (2004) from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. In 2003, she was the recipient of the Governor General's *Persons Case Medal* – the highest civic award for women in Canada.

In 2002 she was awarded the *Queen's Jubilee Medal*; and in 2001, she was named as one of Canada's ten most influential women's rights advocates in *Homemakers Magazine*. In 1993 she was named Woman of the Year by B'Nai Brith Women, and in 1992 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Winnipeg; in 1985 she was named to the *Order of Canada* by the Government of Canada.