



October 20, 2004

**Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration**

**2004 Medal Recipient – ROBERT (BOB) GILLETT**  
**President and CEO of Algonquin College, Ottawa**

Since 1990, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Hamilton, National Capital Region and Toronto Regional Groups of the Institute of Public Administration have encouraged and recognized excellence in public administration in Ontario by annually awarding the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration.

The Medal is awarded to a person who has shown distinguished leadership in public administration in Ontario, or who, by writings and other endeavours, has made a significant contribution in the field of public administration in Ontario. The selection criteria for the Medal includes leadership, innovation and creativity, accomplishment/impact, dedication and sustained effort, contribution to the profession and the community.

The Honourable James K. Bartleman and the Hamilton, National Capital and Toronto Regional Groups of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) are pleased to announce that **Robert Gillett**, President and CEO of Algonquin College, Ottawa is the 2004 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration.

The Lieutenant Governor plans to present the medal to Robert Gillett later this fall in Ottawa.

Robert (Bob) Gillett has been actively engaged in promoting education, from his first teaching post with the Ottawa Board of Education in 1969 to his final position as Director of Education from 1988 to 1995. At that point, he left the Board of Education to take on his current position in the education sector as President and CEO of Algonquin College. Bob holds many leadership positions in the community including involvement with the United Way in Ottawa, the Community Foundation of Ottawa, host of an annual charity golf tournament to raise funds for Algonquin College bursaries, and an annual dinner and auction to raise money for child abuse prevention programs developed by the Children's Aid Society.

Early in his career, Bob recognized that close ties with business and industry were critical for educational institutions and he began building business-education relationships, co-operative ventures and partnerships. In 1984, he helped found the Ottawa-Carleton Learning Foundation, an organization dedicated to developing ties between educational institution and the business sector. The Learning Foundation merged in 1996 with the Ottawa Centre For Research and Innovation and the focus broadened to include government as a third partner.

Bob's nominators included a broad range of business, education, media, elected representatives and community members. They described the tremendous impact he has had on the Ottawa community. Their comments focus on both his collaborative and visionary style and his accomplishments. They describe him as a consummate educator and a strong and dynamic leader who is passionate, creative and innovative. He leads by example, listens and treats everyone with respect. Bob works to find common ground and opportunities for collaboration. He

is a “wonderful ambassador for the college” and is held in high regard by the academic and business sectors and by the media.

His accomplishments are many and varied. Many reflect his commitment to preparing students - elementary, secondary and post-secondary - for a changing work environment by equipping them with a sound understanding of technology and a set of leading edge skills. His leadership at Algonquin College has made the college one of the most wired and computerized colleges. It has grown tremendously with new buildings, new programs, and linkages with other colleges and universities. Much of this has been accomplished through his emphasis on strong partnerships and the development of a shared vision.

In June 2000, the University of Ottawa bestowed an honorary doctorate on Bob Gillett. The citation included reference to his “prescient insights” on the challenges and pressures facing the education system and the need to develop partnerships, particularly related to new technology and innovation, with other sectors. It also noted his leadership skills, “[M]ost of all, Bob Gillett has brought people together despite natural rivalries or other obstacles that might have kept them apart....”

The IPAC Hamilton, National Capital Region and Toronto Regional Groups congratulate Robert (Bob) Gillett and celebrate his achievements in public administration.

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