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Speaker of the House of Commons

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CAFP NAMES THE HONOURABLE DON BOUDRIA AS ITS 2018 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

OTTAWA, May 25, 2018

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP) is pleased to announce the Honourable Don Boudria as the 2018 recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. The award will be presented in Ottawa on Monday, June 4th, by the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons. Both are Honorary Co-Chairs of the CAFP.

It is hard to imagine a parliamentarian whose life and career has been more closely associated with this institution. Born of modest means in Hull in 1949, Don Boudria began his career as a busboy, working in the parliamentary cafeteria, and rose through the ranks as a House of Commons employee. He began his political career in 1976 as a Councillor for Cumberland Township, served in the Ontario Legislature as MPP for Prescott-Russell from 1981 to 1984, and in 1984 was elected MP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, a seat he held with wide margins until his retirement from politics in 2006. As MP, Mr. Boudria sponsored Bill C-275, the legislation that created the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.

Mr. Boudria was appointed to Cabinet in 1996 by Prime Minister Chrétien and served in numerous portfolios including Minister for International Cooperation and Minister Responsible for La Francophonie, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. His rise from humble beginnings and his close association with Parliament are chronicled in his memoir, *Busboy: From Kitchen to Cabinet*.

As a parliamentarian, Mr. Boudria became known for three things: his devoted service to his constituents; his pride in his francophone heritage; and his knowledge of the rules of the House. He founded numerous community associations in his neighbourhood of Cumberland Township. He was founding president of the Ontario Section of the International Assembly of French-speaking Parliamentarians and he Chaired the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.

Following his retirement from the House of Commons, Mr. Boudria joined the lobby firm, Hill and Knowlton, as an Associate where he continues to provide advice on Parliamentary procedure. He has been active for many years on the Board of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and its sister organization, the Educational Foundation. And, he has maintained his attachment to his former constituency, his support for democratic development, and his love of music.

Don Boudria and his wife Mary Ann have two children, Daniel and Julie, and five grandchildren. He speaks French, English, and Spanish. He acquired his university degree late in life, by correspondence, while serving in Parliament, and as a Member of Cabinet. He often lectures on politics and parliamentary affairs. His nomination received support from all parties who highlighted his civility and devotion to the important work of parliament.

The CAFP Distinguished Service Award is a peer nominated recognition presented annually for exceptional contributions by a former parliamentarian. CAFP was created in 1987 and permanently established by an act of Parliament in 1996. It is a non-partisan association composed of former parliamentarians who served either in the Senate of the House of Commons. For more information please see www.exparl.ca . Additional background information about the CAFP Distinguished Service Award is available at <http://www.exparl.ca/distinguished-service-award> .

Date: Monday, June 4, 2018
Time: 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: Room 200, 144 Wellington Street, Ottawa

For more information, please contact:
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