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Canadian Bar Association (New Brunswick) Recognizes Lawyers for Service to the Profession

Moncton – At its MidWinter Meeting the New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Bar Association recognized the outstanding contributions to the legal profession with the presentation of its *Distinguished Service Award* to John J. (Jack) Walsh Q.C. of the Crown Prosecutor’s Office in the Miramichi and to Maureen Whelley Mills Q.C. of Service New Brunswick in Moncton.

Maureen Whelley Mills Q.C. received the CBA *Distinguished Service Award* in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the legal community through her work on the Land Titles System in New Brunswick. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the Canadian Bar Association and to the province’s legal profession.

As corporate counsel to Service New Brunswick and Deputy Registrar General under the *Land Titles Act*, she has been pivotal in the development of the Land Titles System. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that all lawyers and their legal assistants practicing real estate understand and have a good working knowledge of the system, which benefits all New Brunswick residents.

Deirdre Wade Q.C. highlighted Ms Mills’ over 30-year contribution to the legal profession; “Maureen has distinguished herself as a tireless worker and has exemplified true dedication and commitment by playing a significant role in reforming and modernizing real property law in New Brunswick, for the benefit of all citizens of the province.”

Ms. Mills has made invaluable contributions to the Canadian Bar Association through her volunteerism and participation on committees and involvement with the legal community, among other organizations, including her church, local schools and the University Womens’ club. She has been the chair of the local Legal Aid committee since 1994, a member of the Law Society of New Brunswick Council, and a Past President of the New Brunswick branch of the CBA. Ms. Mills has also been a member of Rotary International and has been a member of a variety of committees, ranging from the Federal Judicial Appointments committee to the Board of Examiners of Social Workers.

The second recipient of the *Distinguished Service Award*, John J. (Jack) Walsh Q.C., has worked with the Miramichi Crown Prosecutor's office since 1987. In 1990 he was part of the prosecution team in the case against Alan Legere, at which time he dealt with the then-emerging topic of DNA evidence. Since that time, Mr. Walsh has trained police and lawyers and consulted with Justice Canada on the topic of DNA evidence. Among his colleagues, Mr. Walsh is known for his skill and fairness in criminal matters of all types. He currently chairs the Criminal Law Section of the New Brunswick CBA and is a past president of the New Brunswick Crown Prosecutors' Association. He continues to teach at the National Criminal Law Program and has traveled with the Canadian Bar Association to assist with the development of legal programs in Beijing, China and Temuco, Chile. He is a well-published author of numerous papers in textbooks, the Canadian Bar Review and the Canadian Society of Forensic Science Journal.

CBA Branch President Deirdre Wade Q.C. heralds Mr. Walsh's accomplishments: "Jack is one of the country's leading forensic lawyers. His contribution to the development of the use of DNA in court, and his work in criminal matters are admirable. He is an exceptional advocate who conducts himself fairly and professionally in all matters".

Mr. Walsh Q.C. has been involved with his local Kinsmen club and the Miramichi Whitecaps Swim Team. He also worked on the committee to obtain the new Miramichi Court House facility. In 2003 Jack Walsh Q.C. was awarded the Canadian Bar Association John Tait Award of Excellence, which recognizes the accomplishments of Public Sector Lawyers in Canada.

The Canadian Bar Association is dedicated to improvement in the law and the administration of justice. Some 36,000 lawyers, notaries, law teachers and law students from across Canada are members. There are 1750 members in New Brunswick.

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photos attached:

1. Walsh.jpg (Left to right: Jack Walsh Q.C., award recipient, Deirdre Wade Q.C., President of the New Brunswick Branch, Brian Tabor Q.C., National President of the Canadian Bar Association)
2. Mills.jpg (Left to right: Maureen Whelley Mills Q.C., award recipient; Brian Tabor Q.C., National President of the Canadian Bar Association; Deirdre Wade Q.C., President of the New Brunswick Branch)