



Jun 30, 2010 09:00 ET

Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame Announces 2010 Telecom Laureates

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - June 30, 2010) - Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame announced today the names of the Class of 2010 Telecom Laureates: **John L. Bragg** (Atlantic Canada's Communications Entrepreneur) and **Charles Sirois** (Global Communications Visionary), both in the Icons of Business category, **Stephanie MacKendrick** (Advocate for Women in Canadian Telecom) in the Advocates and Academics category and the late **Major W. Bruce M. Carruthers** (Father of Canadian Military Communications) in the Servants of the Public category.

In addition, this year's coveted Special Recognition Award will go to the **Telecom Pioneers of Canada**, part of a volunteer network of more than 620,000 current and former North American telecom industry employees, the largest industry-related volunteer organization in the world. The Telecom Pioneers are preparing in 2011 to celebrate their 100th anniversary of improving the quality of life in communities across Canada and the U.S. through donations of countless hours of volunteer time and charitable financial contributions in partnership with other local charities.

"Year over year, Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame heralds individual Canadians and organizations from coast to coast that have made enormous, pioneering contribution to our nation's achievements in the field of telecommunications," said Lorne Abugov, Founder of Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame. "Now, more than ever, when policy makers are looking to increase our country's productivity, Canadians need to hear the inspirational stories of our own telecom pioneers: to learn from them, be inspired by them and emulate their success so that we might enjoy future decades of global communications leadership."

The four new Telecom Laureates and the Special Recognition Award recipient will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame on November 10, 2010 at the 6th annual **Telecom Laureate Awards Gala** dinner and induction ceremonies to be held at the Westin Hotel Ottawa. The Awards Gala is an important celebratory night for the telecommunications industry and typically includes over 400 telecom executives and government officials from across the country.

In addition to inducting the Class of 2010 Telecom Laureates into Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame at the Awards Gala, the organization will also honour winners of the **2010 Career Service Awards**, including the 2010 International Telecom Career Service Award sponsored by **Neotelis Inc.** (www.neotelis.com), to be announced at a later date. Also in attendance will be the recipients of the **Telecom Hall of Fame Student Scholarships**, sponsored by the **Ciel Satellite**

Group, and the inaugural winner of the **Mini MBA in Telecommunications Scholarship and Internship**, a joint industry award sponsored and supported by **Neotelis, Execulink Telecom, the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario** and Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame.

The Class of 2010 Telecom Laureate Award Winners

John L. Bragg (Icons of Business – Class of 2010)

Having made his initial mark on Canadian business harvesting blueberries in Nova Scotia, **John L. Bragg** acquired his first CRTC cable television licence in 1971 to serve the town of Amherst, N.S. Over the next few years, he expanded his cable holdings in Eastern Canada. In 1998, Bragg Communications and Halifax Cablevision Limited were merged under the brand of EastLink resulting in the formation of the sixth largest cable company in Canada. In 1999, EastLink launched telephone services, making it the first cable company in Canada to offer telephony services. John Bragg is Chairman of Eastlink Cable Systems and Bragg Communications Inc., as well as Chairman, President and Co-CEO of Oxford Frozen Foods Ltd.

Charles Sirois (Icons of Business – Class of 2010)

A leading figure in the Canadian communications industry for several decades, and a business pioneer in Quebec's paging sector and radiocommunications, as well as in Canada's international telecommunications sector, **Charles Sirois** is the founder, controlling shareholder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Telesystem Ltd., a private equity company. Telesystem invests directly and through focused venture funds in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector, and has built a portfolio of companies worldwide.

Mr. Sirois is founding partner and Chairman of the Board of Enablis Entrepreneurial Network, a non-profit organisation supporting entrepreneurs in developing countries. He is also Chairman of the Board of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Founding partner of Tandem Expansion, a private investment fund focused on growth capital for high potential Canadian technology companies.

Stephanie MacKendrick (Advocates and Academics – Class of 2010)

Stephanie MacKendrick is one of Canada's communications industry's most successful advocates of women in the workplace. For over 15 years, she has led Canadian Women in Communications (CWC), a national organization championing women's career development in broadcasting and telecommunications. Stephanie has also served as President of the Board of Directors of The International Alliance for Women (TIAW), a worldwide umbrella organization of women's networks and Chair of its Women on Boards initiative.

Stephanie has been part of the industry since the early days of her career as a wire reporter covering the communications industry in Canada, including some of the early landmark decisions on private ownership of satellite receivers and the licensing of satellite TV. She worked in corporate communications at Rogers Communications Inc. and Unitel

Communications before becoming Vice President, Corporate Communications at Atlantis Communications Inc.

Major W. Bruce M. Carruthers (1863 -1910) (Servants of the Public – Class of 2010)

Major Bruce Carruthers was a Canadian hero decorated on the field of battle during the Boer War, and he continues to be celebrated even today within the Canadian Forces for blazing the path of military communications in this country. Reflecting on his battlefield experience in South Africa, Bruce Carruthers proposed the creation of the first independently organized Signal Corps in the British Empire, and his vision of enhanced military communications was realized with the establishment of the Canadian Signalling Corps in October 1903, which he headed up.

The Telecom Pioneers of Canada – (Special Recognition Award Winner for 2010)

The **Telecom Pioneers of Canada** is a network of current and former telecom industry employees, their partners and their families. Pioneers are leaders in volunteerism, committed to improving the quality of life in their communities. Sponsor companies in Canada include SaskTel and Bell Aliant. The Telecom Pioneers of Canada is an offshoot of the Telecom Pioneers of America, founded in 1911. The Telecom Pioneers have grown to be the largest industry-related volunteer organization in the world.

About Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame

Established May 30, 2005, Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to safeguard and promote the past, present and future excellence of Canadian telecommunications. The Hall of Fame fulfills its mission through three principal programs: The Telecom Laureate Program, the Education Program and the Outreach Program, which all serve to celebrate the historical legacy of success of Canadian telecommunications, promote current innovation leaders within the industry and encourage Canadian youth to consider the industry as a fulfilling career choice.