

Mary Gusella Introduction of Mary Dawson

Good morning, bonjour,

On July 9, 2007 the Conflict of Interest Act came into force. On the same day, Mary Dawson became the first Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner of Canada under that Act, and performed this role until her retirement in January of this year. *La Loi sur les conflits d'intérêts est entrée en vigueur le 9 juillet 2007, et ce jour-là Mary Dawson est devenue la première commissaire aux conflits d'intérêts et à l'éthique en vertu de cette Loi, fonction qu'elle a occupée jusqu'au début de cette année.*

Many of you are aware of Mary's distinguished legal career legal within the Department of Justice, culminating in her appointment as Associate Deputy Minister from 1988 to 2005.

With degrees in both Civil and Common Law when she joined the Department in 1970, Mary drafted many important Acts of Parliament in her early career, such as the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act. *Elle a aussi élaboré plusieurs autres projets de loi tels que la loi sur la concurrence, la loi sur les langues officielles et la loi canadienne sur la santé.*

Mary led the Public Law Sector for many years, providing legal advice to the Government in all public law matters, including aboriginal affairs. Mary is perhaps best known in government circles for the extremely important role she played in relation to constitutional matters, including the drafting of the patriation package (known as the *Constitutional Act, 1982*) and all subsequent Constitutional amendments and proposals, including the Meech Lake Accord and the Charlottetown Accord.

Mary was made a Queen's Counsel in 1978 and named to the Order of Canada in 2007.

As Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mary oversaw the conduct of senior public office holders, including Ministers and ministerial staff. *Elle appliquait également le Code des conflits d'intérêts des députés, qui avait été élaboré par les députés eux-mêmes.*

We are delighted to have Mary address us this morning and following her talk, to take questions from the audience. À vous la parole !