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### **Canadian Social Worker Wins International Award**

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) is pleased to announce that its nominee, Professor Richard Ramsay, has been selected as the winner of the prestigious Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol Award, presented biennially by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) to an individual or organization who has over time made a significant contribution to international social work.

Richard received his MSW from McGill University and has contributed nationally and internationally to the education of social workers. He joined the Faculty of Social Work of the University of Calgary in 1975 and remained as a faculty member until his retirement in 2004 as Professor Emeritus of Social Work. In 1994, Richard was honoured with an academic appointment as the Mahalaxmi Temple Trust Golden Jubilee Chair in Social Work at India's first school of social work, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Within the social work community, Richard has always been active. From 1974-1979 he was president of Alberta's provincial social work association. In 1980, he became a member of a six-country IFSW committee that created an international definition of social work. Richard was elected to the IFSW Executive Committee in 1984, and he was appointed IFSW Treasurer in 1985, being re-elected for three consecutive terms (1986-1992). In 2000, Richard was Canada's IFSW representative on the joint International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) – International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) committee on Global Standards for Education and Practice.

The prevention of suicide has been an ongoing imperative for Richard. Along with his colleagues, he developed a suicide prevention training program that earned several provincial achievement awards, as well as Canada's Social Policy Research Knowledge Broker Award in 2002. These efforts also had an international impact. The suicide prevention training program is now used in several American states, as well as in Australia, Norway, Scotland, England, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, and Singapore. Currently, the program has a network of over 3,000 community-based trainers from all walks of life and has been delivered to 500,000 community caregivers since 1985.

In 1991 the United Nations became aware of the work of Richard and his colleagues in the delivery of community-based suicide intervention. The UN invited them to work with

interregional experts from several countries to develop guidelines for formulating and implementing national suicide prevention strategies. This document was published by the UN in 1996 and has been since used by many countries to develop national suicide prevention strategies.

Richard will be presented with the Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol Award on July 27, 2006, in Munich, Germany, during the IFSW World Conference. Along with social workers around the world, CASW congratulates him on this accomplishment and thanks him for his contributions to international social work and for his demonstration of excellence in social work practice.

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