

DR. FRASER MUSTARD

Dr. Fraser Mustard began his career as a cardiologist, making groundbreaking contributions to the understanding and treatment of heart attacks. His research into cardiac problems led to an examination of the social and economic factors that influence human health and development. In 1982, he established the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, a unique, interdisciplinary centre bringing together experts in many fields to explore the complex relationships between society, the economy, individuals and populations. Dr. Mustard's research increasingly focused on the prenatal months and early childhood years because, he says, *"experience-based brain development in the early years of life sets patterns for health risks, behaviour and the ability to learn."*

In 1999, at the request of the Ontario government, he co-chaired a landmark study entitled



Dr. Fraser Mustard, recipient of the CEECD Award.

"Experience-based brain development in the early years of life sets patterns for health risks, behaviour and the ability to learn."

- Dr. Fraser Mustard

healthy, competent citizens and called for major new investments in early childhood development. Today, Dr. Mustard works with governments around the world, helping them to understand the vital connection between optimal early development and the long-term health of societies.

"The Early Years." It outlined the crucial role the early years play in forming

THE HONOURABLE MARGARET NORRIE McCAIN

The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain has always advocated children's well-being, whether as New Brunswick's Lieutenant Governor, a social worker, a mother or a grandmother. While living in a small New Brunswick community, Mrs. Norrie McCain became involved with the issue of family violence, helping to create the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation, which worked towards eliminating family violence through education

and research. She was appointed Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick in 1994, and continued to focus her work on the link between families in crisis and the devastating price paid by the children. After moving to Toronto, she met Dr. Fraser Mustard, who convinced her that *"if I was going to be involved with prevention, I had to move into early childhood development."*

In 1999, Dr. Mustard asked her to co-chair The Early Years study, and in 2002 she co-chaired the



The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, recipient of the CEECD Award.

City of Toronto's Commission for Early Learning and Child Care. Mrs. Norrie McCain continues to advocate comprehensive, community-based early childhood services, which focus on optimal child development.

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"A MODEL OF COMMITMENT"

In awarding medals to this exceptional trio, CEECD director Richard E. Tremblay noted, *"they serve as a model of commitment to early childhood development."* Although they come from very different backgrounds, Mr. André Chagnon, Dr. Fraser Mustard and Mrs. Norrie McCain share a common passion. Together, they represent 220 years of hard work that has put early childhood issues on the national agenda. *"They have had a strong influence on the entire population by influencing governments to invest in early childhood development"*, Dr. Tremblay added. With 33 grandchildren among them, they serve as a beacon for society, shining a light on the need to invest in the early years to ensure a healthy future for the world. 🦋

by Liz Warwick