

**Saskatchewan Order of Merit 2004  
Biographies of Recipients**

**Byrna Barclay**

Novelist, playwright, and volunteer, Byrna Barclay has worked hard to encourage new writers to develop their skills and to making life better for the less fortunate. Born in Saskatoon, she has served as president of the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and board and committee member of the Saskatchewan Book Awards. She was founding member of the SaskArt School Board in 1996 and still serves on the Saskatchewan Playwright Center Board. Another significant feature of her contribution to Saskatchewan culture has been her extensive knowledge of the Plains Cree, their culture, language and religion.

Ms. Barclay is the author of three novels and four short story collections, one of which, *Crosswinds*, won Best Fiction at the Saskatchewan Book Awards in 1995, and a hybrid “searching for the nude in the landscape in 1996.” Her poetic drama in two acts, *Room with five walls, the Trial of Victor Hoffman*, resulted from her involvement in mental health reform. Her 2005 collection of short stories, *Girl at the Window*, has just been published by Coteau Books.

She served as a founding member of the Poets Combine, has edited the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild’s newsletter, *Freelance*, was fiction editor of its literary magazine, *Grain*, and the first editor-in-chief of *spring* magazine for emerging writers. In 1983 she founded *Transition*, a magazine for the Canadian Mental Health Association – Saskatchewan Branch, which has become a literary journal. She was the first chair of the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Mental Health.

Byrna Barclay

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Regina

## **Lorne Carrier**

Community Development Manager with the Saskatchewan Museums Association, Lorne Carrier has dedicated himself to heritage, cultural retention and awareness of First Nations cultures and traditions in the areas of repatriation and policy development. Mr. Carrier is from the Piapot First Nation and is of Plains Cree and Nakota ancestry. He attended the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in the Indian Studies Program and received a certificate in Cultural Resource Management from the University of Victoria.

Mr. Carrier has played a significant role in the development of a protocol for the handling and reinternment of ancient burials, establishing a First Nations Elders Advisory Committee. He established and served as curator of Treaty Four Keeping House and Archives in Fort Qu'Appelle, developed its policies, chaired a collections committee, and negotiated repatriation of sacred objects from the Diocese of Qu'Appelle and Lebret Parish.

He is currently working with the Allan Sapp Gallery to develop an exhibit and curate artifacts for an exhibit "*Seeing Through The Eyes of the Cree*" that will open at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in 2005, and is developing a Certificate in Aboriginal Museum Studies to complement existing museum courses offered by the Museums Association of Saskatchewan. Mr. Carrier has demonstrated a remarkable ability to work with non-Aboriginal people, helping both sides find common ground.

Lorne Carrier

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Regina

## **Suzanne Claire Olaski**

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Suzanne Claire Olaski began a soup kitchen in Saskatoon in 1995, feeding more than 200 people every day, seven days a week. She is Founder of Community Alive Inc., a non-profit organization that compiled a database of 1200 families needing food distribution through numerous outreach ministries and organizations. As well, many First Nations reserves have received tons of potatoes through this program.

In 1997, she purchased a 60 room hotel with 75 acres near Blackstrap Lake, providing shelter and counsel in areas such as parenting, relationships, finances, job skills, life skills, family and extended family, addictions, drugs and alcohol, codependency, justice and social services. Judges have stayed prison time to individuals willing to work here to address their areas of difficulty. She has also been recognized by Health Canada, acknowledging that this faith-based treatment facility not only deals with co-dependency issues but also provides family treatment.

Working in the street missions in North America and the ghettos of Oakland, California, she garnered wisdom to deal with criminals and street people --- wisdom she employs today in the City of Saskatoon.

Suzanne Claire Olaski

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Dundurn

## **Dr. Dennis Kendel**

Dr. Dennis Kendel, born in Russell, Manitoba, earned his M.D. with Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan in 1971 and was awarded the Fellowship of the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1993. He has served as President of the Medical Council of Canada, President of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada, Board Chair of Saskatchewan Blue Cross, and member of the Board of Directors of the Health Services Utilization Commission and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Health Quality Council.

Recognized nationally in the area of professional assessment and regulation, he has raised the standard of medical care in Canada. He was instrumental in developing national policy that all physicians be required to complete a minimum of two years accredited postgraduate medical education and a Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination, evaluating clinical and communication skills, before being eligible for medical licensure in Canada. He has worked to improve patient safety by reducing systemic medical errors.

His collaborative philosophy has led to the successful implementation and maintenance of the Triplicate Prescription Program designed to eliminate the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. He continues to lead interdisciplinary enhancements to electronically collect data on a broader range of drugs.

Dr. Kendel's contributions to the community extend beyond the medical field. He played a leading role in the review of the independent committee reviewing the Personal Injury Protection Plan, is a lay leader in Faith Lutheran Church in Saskatoon, and has served as campaign chair for Salvation Army fundraising for several years.

Dr. Dennis Kendel

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Saskatoon

## **Dr. John McLeod**

Dr. John McLeod has devoted a lifetime's work to the field of education through research and teaching. Born in Blackburn, England, he taught in several types of schools before becoming educational psychologist at Merseyside. He became Deputy to Sir Fred Schonell at the Remedial Education Centre of the University of Queensland, Australia, before coming to Canada in 1968. Here, he was the first Director of the University of Saskatchewan's Institute of Child Guidance and Development, inaugurating a programme that became the prototype for the national SEEC Report (Standards for Educators of Exceptional Children in Canada).

Dr. McLeod developed a number of achievement tests and computer applications in basic subjects, including the GAP tests, the first commercially-published reading tests based on Information Theory. In conjunction with John Gerrard's Department of Pediatrics, he established a clinic in the Institute, which offered diagnosis and remedial treatment for children with learning disabilities. The Institute also established an integrated Preschool Centre for 3-, 4- and 5-year olds in conjunction with an Early Childhood Education program – in advance of any publicly supported kindergartens.

In 1985, Dr. McLeod received the highest education research grant ever awarded by the Social Services and Humanities Council of Canada. He has been Scholar-in-Residence at Harvard University and Priorsfield Fellow at Birmingham University in the United Kingdom, and was Senior Fulbright Scholar (to the U.S. from Australia) in 1965.

He was co-recipient of the Canadian Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Sam Rabinovich Award in 1984, received the Canadian Education Association 1986 Whitworth Award for Educational Research, the Maria Tobias Award for Services to Special Education, Australia, 1983; and an honorary life membership in the Saskatchewan Learning Disabilities Association. In 2003, the Saskatchewan chapter of CEC presented him with its lifetime achievement award.

Dr. John McLeod

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Saskatoon

## **Dr. Rajendra Sharma**

Dr. Rajendra (Raj) K. Sharma was born in Hathras, India, and came to Canada in 1976. He made several milestone discoveries at the University of Manitoba and the University of Calgary, in the area of signal transduction, particularly calmodulin regulated systems in brain and cardiac muscles. Dr. Sharma joined the Department of Pathology in the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 1991. He is a Research Scientist in the Cancer Research Centre of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. He also holds Associate Memberships in the Departments of Pharmacology and Surgery.

Dr. Sharma has had a long-standing interest in biochemical regulatory mechanisms in areas involving the cardiovascular system and certain brain tumors. He has made outstanding contributions in the area of colorectal cancer, demonstrating for the first time the role of N-myristoyltransferase (NMT). He has discovered and purified more than a dozen new proteins, mostly related to the area of signal transduction.

Dr. Sharma excels in the area of scientific innovation and original procedures. He is a dedicated and outstanding scientist with an international reputation for conducting innovative and "cutting edge" research. Dr. Sharma has an impressive list of publications, including 162 papers in journals and books.

Dr. Sharma's scientific endeavours are held in high esteem by the international scientific community. He has active collaboration with several departments at the University of Saskatchewan, Plant Biotechnology Institute, National Research Council of Canada and with several other universities and institutions in Canada, the United States, France, India and Hong Kong. He has trained several post-doctoral fellows and students who now are established worldwide; and has arranged symposiums internationally. In recognition of his contribution to research and scholarly activities, he was awarded a Doctor of Science degree at the University of Saskatchewan in 2004.

Dr. Rajendra Sharma

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Saskatoon

## **Gordon Staseson**

Born in Regina, Gordon Staseson, known as “*Mr. Get-It-Done*,” has been the driving force behind many success stories. Managing his own hockey league at the age of 11, he went on to play for the Regina Junior Abbots, Boston Olympics and the Regina Caps. He coached minor league hockey in Regina for ten years. He served as President of the Saskatchewan Roughriders and Chair of the Canadian Football League Board of Governors. He is past president and honorary life member of the Regina Construction Association and founding member of the Regina Housebuilders Association, serving as President in 1969. President of the Regina Exhibition in 1974, Mr. Staseson also chaired the building of the Agridome, Canada Centre and Queensbury Centre. He was president of Regina Buffalo Days in 1967 and founded Pile of Bones Sunday, held each year in Wascana Centre. Chair of the Regina Horse Show during its greatest years, Mr. Staseson was also Chair of the Canadian Figure Skating Championships in 1984 and Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Pavilion at Expo 86 in Vancouver.

He was founding chair of the Regina Economic Development Authority, when transfers of the Regina Airport, Farm Credit Canada and Crown Life were accomplished. He later became chair, president and chief executive officer of the Saskatchewan Gaming Authority; and chair of the Regina Airport Transitional Committee. He was also member of the City of Regina Planning Commission for 17 years. He is a life member of the Queen City Kinsmen, serving as President in 1958, Governor of District 3 in 1964 and National Coordinator in 1965. He has used his broad knowledge of the history of Regina as co-writer of the book *Regina – The First 100 Years*.

An active promoter of Regina, Mr. Staseson has received many honours. He was recognized by the B’Nai B’rith Regina Lodge as the sports personality for 1984, received the Larry Schneider Communications Leadership Award in 1985, and an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Regina in 1989. He received the Saskatchewan Roughrider’s Al Foster “Unsung Heroes Award” in 1991 and was inducted into the Saskatchewan Roughrider Plaza of Honour in 1993. In October 2004, Mr. Staseson was inducted into the Regina Sports Hall of Fame as a builder.

Gordon Staseson

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Regina