



THE HONOURABLE MARGARET NORRIE MCCAIN APPOINTED CHANCELLOR AT CANADA'S NATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL

Toronto, ON, June 22, 2017 --The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain C.C appointed Canada's National Ballet School's (NBS) inaugural Chancellor.

John F. (Jack) Petch, Chair of the Board, is pleased to announce the appointment of the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain as Chancellor of Canada's National Ballet School.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am delighted to welcome Margaret Norrie McCain as the inaugural Chancellor of Canada's National Ballet School commencing in June, 2017. Mrs. McCain, in partnership with her late husband Wallace McCain, has been closely involved in NBS' development, specifically leading the Project Grand Jeté campaign culminating in the School's physical expansion in 2005. We are pleased that as NBS' inaugural Chancellor, Mrs. McCain will take on an ambassadorial role to advance the School's interests within provincial, national and international arenas."

Mrs. McCain has been conferred with many honours, among them the Companion of the Order of Canada, and has served as 27th Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, 1994 to 1997. She received a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Toronto and subsequently became co-chair with Fraser Mustard of The Early Years Study into early childhood learning. Mrs. McCain continues to advocate for Canada's youngest citizens and effective early childhood education programs that provide equal opportunities for all children through the Margaret and Wallace McCain Foundation she and her late husband founded.

"I am delighted to become the first Chancellor of Canada's National Ballet School, a Canadian institution close to my heart." says Mrs. McCain. "Now is an especially exciting time to play a role as NBS embarks on an ambitious plan to share dance with Canadians of all ages and abilities. I embrace NBS' Sharing Dance philosophy, where there is a place for everyone from those who dance for pleasure and health to those with the elite talent to pursue a ballet career. Working alongside Artistic Director Mavis Staines, I look forward to helping this wonderful school touch people's hearts and transform their lives through dance."

Artistic Director Mavis Staines says, “On behalf of everyone at NBS, I welcome Margie to this new role. We couldn’t have a better ambassador. Her warmth, her charm, and her determination to make a difference are evident to all. We are thrilled that she agreed to become NBS’ founding chancellor.”

As the School takes on a broader national role, the board determined the need for a high profile individual to help convey NBS’ values, artistic vision and philosophy. The board struck a search committee and soon identified Mrs McCain as the ideal founding chancellor. Mrs. McCain will serve for an initial three year term, with an option for reappointment for an additional three years. Mrs. McCain will be installed in this role on June 23, 2017 as part of the Grade 12 graduation ceremonies at NBS.

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About Canada’s National Ballet School

NBS is the foremost dance training institution in Canada, with a rich, 58 year history and an international reputation. NBS’ distinctive pedagogy for its Professional Ballet Program integrates elements from the best in classical ballet training methods, contemporary dance and the latest in advances in science and movement. NBS alumni work in 80 companies in Canada and abroad, frequently taking leadership roles as choreographers and artistic directors.