



## **News Release**

April 30, 2018

For Immediate Release

### **The Honourable Dr. Mayann E. Francis, ONS to Receive Honourary Degree at AST Convocation**

Halifax, NS – During Convocation ceremonies on May 5, 2018, Atlantic School of Theology (AST) will award a **Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa***, to the Honourable Dr. Mayann E. Francis, whose accomplished career includes an appointment as the 31st Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Her Honour is being recognized for her incredible contributions to Nova Scotia and beyond, especially in the fight against racial discrimination.

#### **The Honourable Dr. Mayann E. Francis, ONS**

The Honourable Dr. Mayann E. Francis, ONS is the first African Nova Scotian and only the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia from 2006-2012. While serving as Lieutenant Governor, she conferred a posthumous Free Pardon on Nova Scotia entrepreneur and civil rights pioneer Viola Desmond. She was the first vice-regal representative to grant the Royal Prerogative of Mercy, Free Pardon, in Canadian history. In 2015, she was appointed to Dalhousie University's Faculty of Management as the first Distinguished Public Service Fellow in the School of Public Administration. She is the recipient of four honorary degrees, an honorary diploma, Luminary Award, Harry Jerome Award, and the Queen's Diamond and Golden Jubilee medals. She has established awards at the Nova Scotia Community College and Atlantic School of Theology. She was chair of the Board of Governors of the Atlantic School of Theology, CEO of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission and Ombudsman for the Province of Nova Scotia. She also served in senior management roles with the Government of Ontario. Dr. Francis has volunteered on numerous boards and committees of not-for-profit organizations. Added to her accomplishments is her first children's book, *Mayann's Train Ride*, which was published in 2015.

In addition to the above-noted honorary degree, AST will also honour the Most Rev. Ron Cutler, Archbishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, as an **Associate of Atlantic School of Theology** in recognition of his long engagement with AST.

## **The Most Reverend Ron Cutler**

Ronald (Ron) Cutler was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. Formed from birth in the Christian faith and nurtured in Anglican parishes, he felt a call to ordained ministry while studying pure and applied sciences at CEGEP. He graduated from McGill University with a B.Th. and was ordained Deacon and Priest in the Diocese of Central Newfoundland in 1981. He served as rector of two multi-church rural parishes in Newfoundland. In 1991 Ron, wife Marianne and their two children, moved to Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, in order for him to become rector of Trinity Church. In 1996 it was on to the parish of St. John's, Middle Sackville, where he ministered for 12 years. In addition to parish ministry he has served as Regional Dean of Cape Breton and Fort Sackville and was Archdeacon of Fort Sackville before election as Suffragan Bishop of Nova Scotia and PEI in May 2008. He became Diocesan Bishop in 2014 and was elected Metropolitan (Archbishop) of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada last year. He has worked as a supervisor of theological students both in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Over the years he has particularly enjoyed children's and youth ministry, congregational development and facilitating lay and clergy team ministry.

The Honourable Mayann E. Francis, ONS will give the address at AST's 2018 Convocation, which takes place Saturday, May 5, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., in St. Andrew's United Church, Halifax.

Located on the Northwest Arm in Halifax, Nova Scotia, AST is recognized as one of the finest theological universities in North America, educating postgraduate students for the ethical and theological challenges of today's world.

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