

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada announces Rosalind Prober Award winners**

*Honourees challenged and changed law in Nova Scotia*

Wednesday September 23, 2015

*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada* – Beyond Borders is proud to announce that the Rosalind Prober Award for Advocacy will be presented to Dale Sutherland and Bob Martin. Both will be honoured during the November 16, 2015 Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada Media Awards and Symposium.

“Bob Martin and Dale Sutherland are two of the most inspiring people I know,” said Jonathan Rosenthal, legal counsel, Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada. “They both suffered horrific abuse at the hands of Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh. They both saw MacIntosh walk free. In addition to providing support to many victims of sexual abuse they have both become incredible advocates and have gone about making significant change.”

**About the Rosalind Prober Award:** The Rosalind Prober Award recognizes Canadians who have made a significant contribution towards combatting the sexual victimization of children and youth. Recently retired, Rosalind Prober is the Past President and co-founder of Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada.

**About Dale Sutherland:** In 1995, Dale, or DRS, as he would be known under a publication ban, was the first complainant in the case against prolific pedophile Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh, who would eventually face trial on 37 counts of sexually abusing Dale and five others when they were boys growing up in Nova Scotia's Strait of Canso area in the 1970s.

The case was an 18-year odyssey marked by legal and bureaucratic bungling, ball-dropping, and unexplained delays that would eventually see MacIntosh convicted of 17 counts of sexual assault (11 related to Dale) in trials in 2010 and 2011, but then walk away a free man in 2013 when the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal's ruling that he had not been tried within a reasonable time.

In April 2013, when the Supreme Court of Canada rendered its disappointing decision, Dale channeled his energy into exposing the truth about how this miscarriage of justice had occurred – lobbying all levels of government and the media to call attention to the need for a public inquiry into the mishandling of the MacIntosh case. Later that year, both the provincial and federal governments, as well as the RCMP, initiated internal reviews into their roles in the MacIntosh saga, resulting in formal apologies being made to the complainants by both federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay and then-Nova Scotia Justice Minister Ross Landry on behalf of their respective governments.

Most recently, Dale and fellow MacIntosh survivor Bob Martin were instrumental in prompting the Nova Scotia government's about-face on its controversial Limitation of Actions Act. In March of this year, Dale travelled to Halifax from his home in Dawson Creek, BC, to be present at its historic passage in the Nova Scotia legislature along with Martin. In April, Dale appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in support of the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (Bill C-32), where he spoke of his experiences as a victim attempting to navigate "the system," and shared ideas on how it could be improved.

**About Bob Martin:** Last year, Bob became one of the first victims of convicted pedophile Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh to publicly identify himself.

Previously known in court documents only as RM, Bob was one of six complainants to proceed to trial against MacIntosh on sexual abuse charges dating back to the 1970s, when they were boys growing up in Nova Scotia's Strait of Canso area. And although MacIntosh was convicted in two separate trials in 2010 and 2011, those convictions were overturned on appeal, primarily due to the length of time it had taken Canadian authorities to bring MacIntosh from India to Canada for trial. In 2013, the case went before the Supreme Court of Canada, which upheld the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal's decision, and Fenwick MacIntosh went free.

Last November, Bob collaborated with Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada on the creation of a full-page ad that appeared in Nova Scotia's Chronicle Herald newspaper, calling on the provincial government to amend its controversial Limitation of Actions Act – an ad which political analyst Graham Steele called "one of the most powerful political ads that, frankly, I have ever seen."

Then, in January, upon learning that Fenwick MacIntosh had been arrested in Nepal on charges of molesting a young boy there, Bob launched an email campaign, blanketing Nepalese police, prosecutors and media with documentation, translated into Nepalese, outlining MacIntosh's history, helping to play a role in MacIntosh's speedy conviction and sentencing. And in March, Bob's tireless lobbying paid off when Nova Scotia Justice Minister Lena Diab announced that the Limitation of Actions Act would, indeed, be amended to allow victims of sexual abuse to sue their perpetrators in civil court, regardless of how long ago the abuse occurred.

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For more information, contact:

Darlene Newton, President  
Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada  
204-880-2567  
[darlenenewton@beyondborders.org](mailto:darlenenewton@beyondborders.org)

Jonathan Rosenthal, Legal Spokesperson  
Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada  
[jrosenthal@bondlaw.net](mailto:jrosenthal@bondlaw.net)

Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada is a bilingual national advocacy organization advancing the rights of children everywhere to be free from sexual abuse and exploitation. We are a registered charity without political or religious affiliation. Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada is the Canadian representative of ECPAT International, a global network in 77 countries dedicated to ending child prostitution, child pornography, and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes around the world.