

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS: For immediate release

## **Ombudsman André Marin receives University of Ottawa Order of Merit**

**TORONTO (September 8, 2011)** – Ontario Ombudsman André Marin has been awarded the Order of Merit by the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section.

The award is the Civil Law Section’s highest distinction, recognizing alumni who have made remarkable contributions to the legal profession and demonstrated exceptional community and social engagement.

Mr. Marin’s career has been devoted to bringing accountability to public institutions. As Ontario’s Ombudsman since 2005, his high-profile systemic investigations have sparked government reforms affecting millions of Ontarians, from newborn babies to lottery players to citizens whose civil liberties were compromised during last year’s G20 summit in Toronto. He has also shared his investigative expertise with fellow watchdogs around the world, through an innovative training course (known as “Sharpening Your Teeth”) that has been attended by ombudsmen and investigators from more than 30 countries on five continents.

Mr. Marin also served as Canada’s first Ombudsman for the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces from 1998 to 2005, and as Director of Ontario’s Special Investigations Unit from 1996 to 1998. He graduated with degrees in civil and common law from the University of Ottawa in 1989.

“Andre Marin has distinguished himself as a defender of the interests of citizens who come up against large public institutions. As Ombudsman of Ontario, he has won the people's confidence,” said Dean of Civil Law Sebastien Grammond.

The award was presented late yesterday at a dinner at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Also honoured were Ms. Josée Touchette and Ms. Madeleine Renaud. (More info: <http://bit.ly/rmXVJn> - in French only.)

-30-

*Aussi disponible en français*

For further information, please contact:

Linda Williamson Director of Communications Tel: 416-586-3426 <a href="mailto:lwilliamson@ombudsman.on.ca">lwilliamson@ombudsman.on.ca</a>	Patricia Tomasi Communications Officer Tel: 416-586-3402 <a href="mailto:ptomasi@ombudsman.on.ca">ptomasi@ombudsman.on.ca</a>	Ashley Bursey Communications Officer Tel: 416-586-3521 <a href="mailto:abursey@ombudsman.on.ca">abursey@ombudsman.on.ca</a>
---	--	--