



News Release  
Wednesday, September 18, 2019

## **The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and Mulroney Hall officially opens on St. Francis Xavier University campus**

ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA – Today, St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) Interim President Dr. Kevin Wamsley and the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney officially opened The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and Mulroney Hall. The \$52 million state-of-the-art facility is the new home to this unique institute for government and leadership.

The four-storey, 93,000 square foot glass-walled building took two years to construct, and already it is transforming the StFX campus, both physically and academically.

“We are extremely grateful to Prime Minister Mulroney and his family for making this vision a reality. It’s a project that entrenches StFX as a national and international destination for leadership, receiving widespread support both at home in Canada and from around the world,” said Dr. Wamsley. “The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and Mulroney Hall provide new opportunities for the StFX community, a platform from which we can deliver our academic mission in new and exciting ways.”

Mulroney Hall is a focal point within StFX, connecting the lower and upper campuses; the Joyce Family Atrium, the centrepiece of the building, will be a gathering place for faculty and students; the facility’s classrooms are fitted with the latest technology and a 300-seat auditorium provides a venue for music, theatre and debate. In addition, Mulroney Hall features a replica of Mr. Mulroney’s Parliament Hill office from his nine-year tenure as Canada’s 18<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister, including his papers, speeches and letters from world leaders.

Mr. Mulroney personally raised \$100 million to create the cornerstone of the StFX’s Xaverian Commons Project, which will transform the university’s upper campus. He and his wife, Mila, also made a major contribution to the initiative.

“It was important to him that 100 per cent of the funds raised go directly to the project,” said Dr. Wamsley. “There were basically no administrative costs back to the university. That is a huge benefit to our campus, our faculty and students.”

Among the funds raised, \$26 million is designated for chairs, bursaries and scholarships for the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government. The Nova Scotia government contributed \$5 million and the federal government gave \$30 million for Mulroney Hall, and two other related projects, Nicholson Tower and the Xaverian Commons.

Another \$10 million was created for academic programming and chairs, while \$16 million is set aside specifically for student scholarships and bursaries.

The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government has among the richest student scholarships and bursaries offering in Canada. Over 200 scholarships and bursaries are available annually. These awards range from \$4,000 to \$60,000 per award, including awards specifically designed to assist marginalized populations, such as Aboriginal and African Nova Scotian communities.

“My years at StFX were defining ones; I got my start here and the relationships I forged, and the leadership skills I learned introduced me to the value of service to others. Service is in the ethos of StFX, and I am humbled by the opportunity to give back to the institution in a way that will positively affect those long after I’m gone,” said Mr. Mulroney. “I am proud to be able to support the education of our future leaders, individuals who I know will make a difference to this country.”

Mr. Mulroney was accompanied by Mrs. Mulroney, and their family for the opening. About 300 invited guests were in attendance.

The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and Mulroney Hall build on the unique culture of StFX. Situated in a remote corner of Nova Scotia, StFX attracts students from across the country, and abroad, through its reputation of delivering strong undergraduate programs, academic excellence, smaller class sizes and a culture of social justice and lively debate.

Please see the media kit for more information on Mulroney Hall and the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government.

**For further information, please contact**

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**About St Francis Xavier University**

Consistently recognized as one of the best universities in Canada, StFX exceeds the needs of today's undergraduates through providing the very best academic experience -- outstanding teaching, exceptional hands-on research opportunities, global exchanges, all within Canada's most vibrant and inspiring residential campus. For more, visit [www.stfx.ca](http://www.stfx.ca)