



2005 recipient of the OCASA Doug Light Award develops services for students with special needs



The 2005 winner of the OCASA Doug Light Award for Excellence in Administration, Susan Alcorn-MacKay has specialized in developing services for students with disabilities in post secondary education. At Cambrian College, she is Director of the Glenn Crombie Centre for Disability Services. She also is an adjunct Professor of Special Needs at Nipissing University.

She was instrumental in the creation of the Glenn Crombie Centre at Cambrian College. The centre grew under her direction, supporting 17 students in 1987 to more than 700 today. She was involved in all aspects of the project including fund-raising. At its inception, the centre was the only one of its kind in North America. It provides services to students at

Cambrian, and is a resource to the community.

Ms. Alcorn-MacKay was also instrumental in the creation of the Northern Ontario Assessment and Resource Centre (NOARC). This centre will coordinate activities of psychologists, psychiatrists, and educators in Northern Ontario to improve educational and employment opportunities for those in Northern Ontario with learning disabilities.

She is also a published children's author. Her 1989 novel *The Turtle Connection*, was published by Gage.

Ms. Alcorn-MacKay has taught for the Sudbury Board of Education, and early in her career was a researcher for a publishing house (Scholastic Canada). She was also a corrections officer for the Ministry of Corrections at the Cecil Facer School, Sudbury, where she later returned as a teacher while employed by the Sudbury Board of Education.

She serves on the executive of the College Committee on Disability Issues, the Canadian Association of Disability Service Providers in Post Secondary Education and has been named to the Minister's Advisory Council on Disability Issues. In 2003 she received her Masters Degree from Nipissing with a thesis on the components of a successful program for adults with complex learning disabilities.

Ms. Alcorn-MacKay also serves as President of the Administrative Staff Association at Cambrian, and is the College Representative on OCASA.

The OCASA Doug Light Award for Excellence in Administration is awarded to a college administrator who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, contributions to community, and excellence of performance. The award is named for the late Doug Light who served 26 years as a college administrator, including terms as president of two colleges, Centennial College in Scarborough and George Brown College in Toronto.