

For Immediate Release
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STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL MICHAEL BRYANT ON FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL IAN SCOTT

Former Ontario attorney general Ian Scott was a great man and mentor to many, myself included. News of his passing overnight (peacefully in his sleep) has left many at the Ministry of the Attorney General feeling terribly sad and yet fortunate to have known him.

During his tenure as attorney general, Mr. Scott truly made a difference. He utterly transformed Ontario's justice system, and played an indispensable role in constitutional talks and otherwise in the life of his government. He introduced Ontario's first Freedom of Information Act, brought in North America's first pay equity legislation and created an independent panel to recommend judicial appointments to ensure only the most qualified candidates were appointed to the Bench. Mr. Scott also amended the Ontario Human Rights Code to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. In 1994, he received the Order of Canada in recognition of public service.

Mr. Scott's effect on other lawyers, politicians and citizens is inestimable. He was a giant among lawyers, and we who work at the proudly named McMurtry-Scott Building in Toronto and throughout the Ministry across Ontario invoke his name daily. The affection so universally felt for Ian from so many reflected his towering charm, his genuine warmth, and the awe he inspired. He will truly be missed. On behalf of the government of Ontario, I offer my condolences to Mr. Scott's family and friends.

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