

# **RICHARD POUND INTRODUCTION**

**BY MARION LAY**

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IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE AND A PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE RICHARD POUND WHO IS BEING HONOURED TODAY WITH THIS TRIBUTE BY THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA AS PART OF THE UN'S INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION ON THIS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE.

DICK, AS HE IS KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO SPORT AS AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE . . . . ADVOCATE . . . CANADIAN LEADER . . . A EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF CANADA'S OLYMPIC COMMITTEE . . . AN EXECUTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE . . . AND AS THE CHAIR OF THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY.

IT ALL STARTED IN OCEAN FALLS, BC WHERE HE LED A SWIMMING DYNASTY - A DECADE OF OUTSTANDING CANADIAN OLYMPIC SWIMMERS. "DICK IS PROOF THAT FROM SMALL THINGS COME GREATNESS".

HIS FIRST INVOLVEMENT IN THE OLYMPICS CAME AT THE 1960 OLYMPICS IN ROME WHEN HE WAS THE ONLY CANADIAN TO REACH THE FINALS IN SWIMMING.

AT THE 1962 COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA, HE WON INDIVIDUAL GOLD AND SET A GAMES RECORD IN THE 110-YARD FREESTYLE, ALSO WINNING TWO SILVERS AND A BRONZE IN RELAY EVENTS.

IT WAS IN 1964 AT THE BEGINNING OF MY SWIMMING CAREER AT THE AGE OF 14 THAT I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING OUR FASTEST CANADIAN SWIMMER. HE INSPIRED THE NEXT GENERATION OF SWIMMERS – THANKS TO DICK, WE BELIEVED CANADIANS COULD WIN AT THE WORLD LEVEL AND GIVE BACK

TO SPORT BY PUTTING OUR VALUES INTO ACTION . . . TO  
STAND UP FOR WHAT WE BELIEVED AND ENGAGE IN THE  
DISCUSSION OR DEBATE.

AFTER RETIRING FROM SWIMMING COMPETITION, DICK WENT  
ON IN HIS CAREER TO:

- RECEIVE A BACHELOR DEGREES IN COMMERCE AND  
CIVIL LAW FROM MONTREAL'S MCGILL UNIVERSITY, AS  
WELL AS A BACHELOR OF ARTS FROM SIR GEORGE  
WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY.
- BECAME A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN BAR  
ASSOCIATION, THE TAX FOUNDATION AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRACTICING LAWYERS.
- EDITED AND AUTHORED NUMEROUS PUBLICATIONS ON  
TAX AND LEGAL ISSUES, PUBLISHED A BIOGRAPHY OF A  
NOTED QUEBEC JUDGE, AND, IN 1994, PUBLISHED *FIVE  
RINGS OVER KOREA: THE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS*

*BEHIND THE 1988 OLYMPIC GAMES IN SEOUL, ON THE GEO-POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE MODERN OLYMPIC MOVEMENT. HE WROTE INSIDE THE OLYMPICS: A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE POLITICS, THE SCANDALS AND THE GLORY OF THE GAMES.*

TO PRESENT THE TRUTH, THE GOOD AND WHAT WAS NEEDED FOR REFORM TAKES COURAGE.

- HE HAS SERVED AS CHANCELLOR OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY IN MONTREAL
- AND IN 1992, DICK WAS MADE AN OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA.

BUT WHAT WE ARE HERE TO CELEBRATE TODAY IS HIS VOLUNTEER LIFE -- HE ACCEPTED A ROLE WITH THE CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, BECAME ITS PRESIDENT, AND EVER SINCE HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING LEADER FOR SPORT IN CANADA.

AS PRESIDENT OF THE COC, DICK MOVED ONTO THE INTERNATIONAL SPORT SCENE.

FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS HE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT AND DEDICATED MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND HAS HAD A TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE ON THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT IN CANADA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

- 17 YEARS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
- 8 YEARS AS A VICE PRESIDENT
- 18 YEARS AS CHAIRMAN OF MARKETING AND TELEVISION

THIS IS A UNIQUE WORLD ORGANIZATION WHERE NOT ONLY DO ATHLETES COMPETE IN FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL COMPETITION, BUT ALL NATIONS DECLARE THEY WILL BE AT PEACE FOR THE DURATION OF THE GAMES.

HIS COMMITMENT IS UNWAVERING, HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE COUNTLESS, HIS CONTRIBUTIONS UNPARALLELED.

THE “DICK POUND MARK” CAN BE SEEN EVERYWHERE...FROM BUILDING THE OLYMPICS INTO A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR ENTERPRISE BY MARKETING THE OLYMPIC RINGS, AND NEGOTIATING WORLD-WIDE TELEVISION RIGHTS, TO BRINGING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES TO THE FOREFRONT, AS WELL AS DEALING WITH JUDICIAL MATTERS AND GOVERNANCE AND ENSURING ATHLETES’ RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED AND PROMOTED.

ATHLETES’ RIGHTS ALWAYS ARE AT THE CENTRE OF ANY DECISION OR ACTION.

WHEN ANTI-DOPING BECAME A MAJOR ISSUE IN SPORT AND THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY WAS ESTABLISHED TO BE THE INTERNATIONAL BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR FIGHTING THE WAR AGAINST THE USE OF DRUGS IN SPORT, DICK WAS UNANIMOUSLY CHOSEN AS THE CHAIRMAN BECAUSE HE

BELIEVES IN ATHLETES' RIGHTS AND UPHOLDS THE ETHICAL VALUES INTEGRAL TO THE SPIRIT OF SPORT AND FAIR PLAY.

AS WE KNOW, PUTTING OUR VALUES INTO ACTION TAKES A CLEAR VISION, PASSION AND A TREMENDOUS COMMITMENT.

HIS EFFORTS HAVE MADE HIM ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED AND PROMINENT LEADERS IN SPORTS AND IN BUSINESS, AND HE WAS RECENTLY NAMED ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S "100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2005".

THE GOAL OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND BETTER WORLD BY EDUCATING YOUTH THROUGH SPORT WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND, IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP, SOLIDARITY AND FAIR PLAY.

ACCORDING TO KOFI ANNAN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, "SPORT IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE THAT CAN BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR ORIGIN, BACKGROUND, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OR ECONOMIC STATUS."

DICK LIVES AND BREATHES THESE VALUES.

THERE IS NO OTHER CANADIAN MORE DESERVING OF THIS HONOUR.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . . DICK POUND.

## SIDEBAR FACT & BACKGROUND

- BORN IN ST. CATHERINES, ONTARIO HIS CAREER IN SPORT WAS LAUNCHED AT AGE SIX IN A SWIMMING POOL IN THE SMALL B.C. COMMUNITY OF OCEAN FALLS.
- RECEIVED BACHELOR DEGREES IN COMMERCE AND CIVIL LAW FROM MONTREAL'S MCGILL UNIVERSITY, AS WELL AS A BACHELOR OF ARTS FROM SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY.
- IS A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, THE TAX FOUNDATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRACTICING LAWYERS.
- HAS EDITED AND AUTHORED NUMEROUS PUBLICATIONS ON TAX AND LEGAL ISSUES, PUBLISHED A BIOGRAPHY OF A NOTED QUEBEC JUDGE, AND, IN 1994, PUBLISHED *FIVE RINGS OVER KOREA: THE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS BEHIND THE 1988 OLYMPIC GAMES IN*

*SEOUL*, ON THE GEO-POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE MODERN OLYMPIC MOVEMENT. ALSO WROTE *INSIDE THE OLYMPICS: A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE POLITICS, THE SCANDALS AND THE GLORY OF THE GAMES*.

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