

In Recognition of Ken Kernaghan

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Ken Kernaghan has been recognised by the government in Canada as worthy of special recognition, and I understand he is now a member of the Order of Canada. It hardly seems polite for a foreigner to add otiose compliments to those implied in the granting of the honour, but I hope one may be allowed to do so.

I first met Ken in 1999 when he was part of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences' Conference that we at the National School of Government (then known as the Civil Service College) were hosting at Sunningdale in the United Kingdom. During the tour of the Oxford colleges laid on as part of the entertainments, I had the pleasure of showing Ken and his wife Helgi around the green lawns and ancient stonework of, among others, my old college. From that point on I was struck by Ken's commitment to public administration and his seriousness about sharing the benefits of Canada's expertise with the rest of the world. Later, when Director General of the same Institute, I had the pleasure to work with him as Editor of our international review, which he handled with aplomb for many years, and passed on to Chris Pollitt, another world-class scholar, only in 2005 after fifteen years in charge. As a Canadian, he was always comfortable with the bilingual nature of our journal (English and French) and was equally ready to publish pieces on new public management – and for some of the time that he was in the job the tide of New Public Management was at the flood – and on ethics and the more traditional arts of the profession as practiced and taught.

The recent book of essays edited by David Siegel and Ken Rasmussen under the title *Professionalism and Public Service* (University of Toronto Press, 2008) records all of this and more; and also contributions from many serious names in the field, such as Peter Aucoin and David Brown. But not only Canadians have found Kernaghan to be a good guide to the tricky seas of public service and public administration study. I am sure we all wish him a long and preternaturally busy retirement.

About the Author

Michael Duggett is responsible for international relations, especially concerning European public administration and government training schools, for the National School of Government in the UK, as well as developing and contributing to cross-sectoral conferences for the UK Government at the National School. At Portsmouth University he teaches and researches on public administration and policy issues. Previous to this position, he was the Director General of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) based in Brussels, which has almost 100 member states and national sections and is an NGO dedicated to pursuing modern governance and proper public administration.