



## **MEDIA RELEASE:**

### **Lieutenant Governor attends Penhold celebration**

**For Immediate Release, January 26, 2018:** Her Honour, the Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM AOE, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta and His Honour the Honourary Colonel Douglas Mitchell, joined in a special celebration in Penhold today.

Her Honour presented the ceremonial Inauguration of the Chain of Office to officials with the Town of Penhold, and witnessed a presentation of a special scholarship to Penhold Crossing Secondary School. The Town of Penhold and Chinook's Edge School Division came together in the Penhold Library for this historical event this afternoon.

The Chain of Office, which is cast in silver gilt, is a historic tradition that symbolizes municipal leadership and is worn by officials during formal civic events. The jewel in the new Town of Penhold Chain of Office is the coat of arms that had recently been created. As well, a smaller version was created for each Town Councillor and the CAO.

"Our Town slogan is 'honouring the past and challenging the future', and I feel that's exactly what we did today," said Mayor Michael Yargeau. "I'm accepting the Chain of Office on behalf of our past Mayors and Council, and holding it safe for the Town of Penhold for all time. There are very few Chains of Office in Alberta, and it's an amazing honour to be part of this. Of course, all of us are very thankful to have such generous residents in town that created this opportunity. This is definitely a historic day in Penhold."

The sponsors of the Chain of Office are long-time community residents, Eileen and Stewart Ford. Penhold has benefited greatly from the Ford family's philanthropy, including Penhold Crossing Secondary School. When it first opened nearly four years ago, the Fords provided an extraordinary donation of \$500,000 towards student scholarships. In the presence of Their Honours, they presented a further \$500,000 to the Red Deer & District Community Foundation, where the full \$1 million scholarship is vested.

"Surely there is no finer investment for any community than putting knowledge into the minds of scholars," said Stewart Ford. "We feel that when the Town of Penhold and Chinook's Edge built the new Penhold Crossing Secondary School here, it prompted community growth. It's all connected and we feel it's important to invest where we have lived all these years. Penhold Crossing has an excellent reputation, as do our younger-grade schools that lead up to it. Our grandchildren are going to school here now, so we're glad to still be part of it."

The Ford Family Scholarships are provided for Academics, Citizenship, and Applied/Practical Arts. For Stewart, whose great-grandfather arrived from Ontario in 1884, it is a tribute to the generations of his family who have thrived in the Penhold area.

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