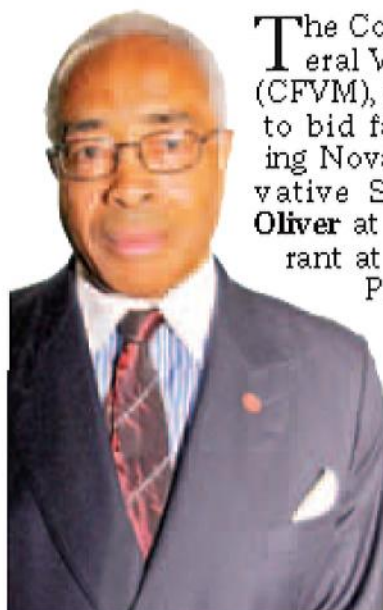




HEARD ON THE HILL

BY BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH

'Little did I know one day, this little black kid from a poor family would be a Senator': Sen. Oliver



Tory Senator Donald Oliver.

to the Senate, he was a law professor at Dalhousie University. He was also once an active member of the now defunct Progressive Conservative Party and held several party positions including vice-president of the party, director of legal affairs and director of the PC Canada Fund, a fundraising arm of the party.

The Community of Federal Visible Minorities (CFVM), held a reception to bid farewell to retiring Nova Scotia Conservative Senator **Donald Oliver** at Lagos, a restaurant at the Dow's Lake Pavilion in Ottawa last week.

Sen. Oliver, who was appointed by former prime minister **Brian Mulroney** in 1990 is retiring on Nov. 16, when he turns 75. Prior to his appointment

He was appointed Speaker pro tempore of the Senate in 2010.

Bhagwant Sandhu, president of CFVM and executive director at Fisheries and Oceans for legislation and regulatory affairs, told HOH that his organization decided to hold the event to celebrate Sen. Oliver's work for visible minorities.

"Here's a man of tremendous achievement, just as a Canadian. He's got five honorary degrees—doctorates. He's the first black Canadian to be appointed to the Senate, and he comes out of a tradition of academia, social justice all those things that we should recognize. He has a great track record of advancing issues for minorities," said Mr. Sandhu adding that Sen. Oliver not only championed the cause of visible minorities but also of women, aboriginal people and people with disabilities.

About 200 public servants and their families attended the event, including Conservative Sen. **Don Meredith** and **Daniel Watson**, chief human resource officer at Treasury Board Canada also attended the event.

The Community of Federal Visible Minorities is an organization of several

President of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection was in attendance to accept Shaw's donation of \$300,000 to support



Earncliffe's Geoff Holway.



Photographs by Jake Wright, The Hill Times

Ken Stein, J.R. Shaw, Transport Minister Lisa Raitt.

hundred federal public servants that came into existence about a year ago.

Mr. Sandhu said that the membership is not paid and they ask interested public servants to sign up so that they could be contacted whenever an event is being organized.

In his final newsletter to constituents in Nova Scotia, Sen. Oliver said that he is "deeply indebted" to Mr. Mulroney for appointing

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