



## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For immediate release*  
January 31, 2006

### **Red Deer College Alumna Doris MacKinnon Publishes Essay on the History of Dr. Ethel Taylor**

Red Deer College alumna, Doris J. MacKinnon's essay "*Just an Ordinary Person*": *The History of Dr. Ethel Taylor* will be published in the spring 2006 edition of the *Prairie Forum*, The Journal of the Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina.

MacKinnon is a 2004 graduate from Bachelor of Arts (English) at Red Deer College. She is now completing her Master of Arts Degree in Western Canadian History at the University of Calgary. In addition to the Barbara Roberts Memorial Award for this essay, MacKinnon was recently awarded the Alberta Graduate Scholarship for outstanding students, the Eleanor Luxton Historical Foundation Graduate Scholarship, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Graduate Scholarship.

The essay was completed as part of project work for an Athabasca University course entitled "Women and the Canadian Frontier."

The essay provides a chronological account of Ethel Taylor's life. As stated in the essay ABSTRACT: Dr. Ethel Isabella Taylor, while referring to herself as "just an ordinary person," was instrumental in the drive to improve literacy in Alberta during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Taylor was the first female to sit on city council and throughout her involvement with municipal politics and organizations such as the Women's Institute she maintained a constant passion for literacy. Dr. Taylor bequeathed all her personal files to the City of Red Deer archives, ensuring that researchers had unlimited access to important historical material.

"It is quite an honor to have my essay published in the *Prairie Forum*. Dr. Taylor is an important historical figure, and I am pleased that the publication will make her story available to a wider audience," says Doris MacKinnon.

The *Prairie Forum* is both a multidisciplinary and an interdisciplinary journal and welcomes articles that deal with issues of relevance to the Canadian Plains region from all disciplines in the humanities, social sciences and the natural sciences. Submissions are reviewed by two or more scholars with expertise in the field represented by a particular article.