Tribute – In memory of Doug Mitchell

We are deeply saddened to share the news of the death of Doug Mitchell, a true Canadian icon and titan in the business, sports and legal worlds. We at BLG were also fortunate enough to know him as a leader in our Calgary office and the broader community.

“Doug was instrumental in the foundation of BLG and a leader in the merger which formed the Firm in 2000,” said John Murphy, National Managing Partner and CEO. “He joined BLG as an articling student and through a distinguished career rose to be the Firm’s National Co-Chair. He also served as Managing Partner at the Calgary office for several years.”

Among his many achievements and recognitions, Doug was a member of the Order of Canada and the Alberta Order of Excellence.

He was also an accomplished businessman, providing insight and guidance on a number of corporate and non-profit boards. “Doug was a formidable presence inside and outside the board room,” said Randall Block, QC, Senior Counsel at BLG and a close professional and personal friend to Doug. “His involvement was rooted in a strong and overriding desire to give back to his community.”

Before practising law, Doug played professional football with the CFL’s BC Lions. From 1984 to 1989, he took a leave of absence from law to serve as the Commissioner of the CFL. Doug was also a member of the NHL’s Board of Governors from 1980 to 1984.

“Doug was a highly regarded champion of sport in Canada and of male and female university athletes,” said Alan Ross, QC, Regional Managing Partner of BLG Calgary. “His legacy is vast, and sport figures prominently in it.” Doug was recently inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

Doug was an inspiration to all who knew him and we will continue to share his dedication to building a strong future for Calgary, Alberta and Canada.

To commemorate Doug’s legacy and significant contribution in many important ways, a fitting tribute will be planned in September (details to be announced).

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