

Professor wins big policy award

By SHANNA SCHULHAUSER
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It was a golden day for Dr. Gregory Marchildon.

On Tuesday afternoon, the University of Regina professor and Canada Research Chair in Public Policy was awarded the Saskatchewan Regional Institute of Public Administration of Canada's (IPAC) gold medal by Lt.-Gov. Dr. Gordon Barnhart.

"It was a great surprise," said Marchildon. "It's a great honour, but I was completely surprised because I had no idea that my name was even being considered by the IPAC.

"I have received other awards, but nothing specifically in terms of public administration, so in a sense it's unique."

The medal, which is awarded annually, is used to recognize distinction and exceptional achievement to those who have shown leadership or have made a large contribution to public administration in Saskatchewan.

Since the '80s, Marchildon has been a staple in both politics and academia. For nearly five years, he taught at John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C., as well as at the University of Regina in the Graduate School of Public Policy.

Marchildon has also worn several political hats, and has served as the province's Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Minister for former premier Roy Romanow. He was also an adviser for the Fyke Commission on Medicare, and executive director of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, which was chaired by Romanow.

"When you look at those types of accomplishments, and that he has moved on into academia, and he's done stuff for the World Health Organization, he's someone for Saskatchewan to be proud of basically," said Larry Sanders, communications chair for IPAC Saskatchewan.

According to Sanders, giving out a prestigious award such as this does not happen every year.

"It is a high honour. If you think about it compared to other awards, it's a lifetime achievement award," he said.

Marchildon said that it "means something" to have his work "recognized to the extent that it is," especially with the role he played in government.

"What you actually accomplish in government is a product of not just dozens of people, but hundreds and

hundreds of people," said Marchildon. "So the fact that you are being singled out, it feels a little strange, because really it's a team activity in every respect.

"You feel a little unworthy in that sense. In terms of work and writing and publishing of course, I feel a little differently about that."

As for the future, Marchildon hopes to take it easy and continue working behind the scenes.

"For the next few years, I'd just like to have the peace and quiet that academic life offers," he said. "I don't want to get on the front line again anytime soon because I really would like to write a couple of books.

"Then I'll see after that," he laughed.