



THE LESLIE K. TARR – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESS RELEASE

The Word Guild Honours Distinguished Writer and Parliamentarian

MARKHAM, ON —The Honourable David Kilgour of Ottawa, ON, has been formally recognized as the recipient of this year's Leslie K. Tarr Lifetime Achievement Award, which was announced at The 2021 Word Awards Gala held virtually on September 25.

The annual award, which recognizes a major career contribution to Christian writing and publishing in Canada, is given by The Word Guild, a national association of writers, editors, speakers and other interested Christians. Tarr was an influential magazine editor, and over the years the award in his name has been given to the likes of Jean Little, J. I. Packer, Rudy Wiebe, Maxine Hancock and Margaret Avison. Nominees for this award must have exemplified three key characteristics within their career to be considered. They will have demonstrated excellence in writing; contributed to the development of Christian writing and writers in Canada; as well as helped position the church in Canadian society, leading to better understanding of Christianity. Full details can be found at <https://thewordguild.com/leslie-k-tarr-award>.

David Kilgour has been an active writer throughout his twenty-six-year career as an elected member of parliament, and later as an international advocate for human rights. Between 1988 and 2009, he has written or coauthored six books. In addition, David has regularly contributed news articles and opinion pieces to news sources such as The National Post, The New Delhi Times, and The Ottawa Citizen. He has spoken out vigorously in defense of persecuted religious and ethnic minorities around the world. He has frequently stated that his writing and advocacy springs from his deeply held Christian faith and worldview. David has contributed to the work of The Word Guild through his hospitality, time, talent, and finances in the Ottawa chapter.

David has openly identified himself as a follower of Christ in his work as a member of parliament, as an active member of the weekly parliamentary prayer meeting, and as a member of an Ottawa Presbyterian Church. As a parliamentarian David has worked as a bridge builder across party, ethnic and religious lines, receiving awards from the Edmonton Filipino Association, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Alberta, the Edmonton Sikh community, and the International Religious Liberty Association in Washington, D.C., among others. In May 2006, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Knox College, University of Toronto, recognizing his commitment to human rights in Canada and abroad. For their work about organ harvesting, Matas and Kilgour won the 2009 Human Rights Award from the German-based International Society for Human Rights and were nominated for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Honourable David Kilgour's tireless work as a Christian, as a writer, and as an advocate for the voiceless, will be an inspiration to Christian writers for years to come.