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PRESS RELEASE

Remembering the Honourable Bud Cullen

It is with great sadness that the Vietnamese Canadian Federation learned that the Honourable Bud Cullen, former Minister of Employment and Immigration in the Trudeau Government, has passed away.

As Minister of Employment and Immigration, Mr. Cullen brought in the Immigration Act of 1976 which, for the first time, included a provision for private sponsorship of refugees. This timely Act enabled community and church groups to sponsor, in 1979-1980, 34,000 Southeast Asian refugees, the majority of whom were Vietnamese boat people fleeing the newly established Communist regime at home. The overwhelming response from the Canadian public to the plight of these refugees was the result of the various initiatives undertaken by Canadian citizens across the country such as Project 4000 in Ottawa and Operation Lifeline in Toronto in 1979.

In recognition of Mr. Cullen's instrumental role in the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees in Canada, the Vietnamese Canadian Federation presented him with a plaque of appreciation in a ceremony celebrating the 25th anniversary of Project 4000 on November 20, 2004 in Ottawa.

A representative of the Federation paid tribute to Mr. Cullen and conveyed its condolence to his family at a memorial service held in his honour in Ottawa today.

Friends of the Federation and members of the Vietnamese community in Canada are urged to sign the Guest Book set up in memory of the Honourable Bud Cullen at the following address (courtesy of the Ottawa Citizen):

<http://www.legacy.com/can-ottawa/Guestbook.asp?Page=Guestbook&PersonID=14468049>

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For immediate release

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