
Press Release

PRIX RONALD-DUHAMEL – RONALD DUHAMEL AWARD PRESENTED FOR THE FIRST TIME

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA March 17, 2006 – Officially launched in March 2005, the first *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* was presented last night during an award ceremony at the Fort Garry Hotel. This year's recipients of the Award are two teams, one provincial and one federal, who contributed to the conception, the creation and the implementation of the three Bilingual Service Centres in Manitoba: in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, in St.Boniface and in St-Pierre-Jolys. Mr. Edmond LaBossière, former Senior Advisor of the provincial French Language Services Secretariat and Mr. Mike Styre, co-chair of the Manitoba Federal Council Steering Committee on Official Languages, accepted the Award on behalf of the provincial and federal teams respectively.

A joint initiative of the Société franco-manitobaine, the Manitoba Federal Council and the Manitoba French Language Services Secretariat, the *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* was created to recognize a federal or provincial public servant or team of public servants for distinguished service to Manitoba's Francophone community.

The award has been named in honour of Ronald Duhamel and his significant contributions, first as a senior public servant in the Government of Manitoba and then as a federal MP, minister and senator. During his career, Mr. Duhamel did much to promote the cultural, educational, economic and political development of the Franco-Manitoban community. He also supported a number of minority Francophone community initiatives at the national level.

Daniel Boucher, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Société franco-manitobaine, states "this award is a very fitting way of underscoring the leadership and the efforts of federal and provincial public servants who work with determination, above and beyond the letter of laws and policies, to serve and support the Francophone community of Manitoba".

According to Marilyn Kapitany, Chair of the Manitoba Federal Council, "the very fact that the award is the result of a federal-provincial-community initiative sends out a very strong message as to the commitment of the three partners to work in close cooperation in order to achieve common objectives for the benefit of the Francophone community".

For his part, Guy Jourdain, Senior Advisor with the Manitoba French Language Services Secretariat, believes that "the award is an excellent tool to make public servants better aware of the various facets of services and support for the Francophone community and to showcase their accomplishments in this regard with their colleagues and the French-speaking population".

Members of the general public and government employees were invited to submit nominations for the *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* by **February 15, 2006**.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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