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# Press Release

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## **PRIX RONALD-DUHAMEL – RONALD DUHAMEL AWARD WINNER FOR 2011**

**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, March 15, 2011** – The *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* was presented today to the coordinators of Francophone family resource centres (*Centres de la petite enfance et de la famille*, CPEF) who work in 11 Francophone communities in Manitoba. Ms. Joanne Colliou, who manages the centres, accepted the award on behalf of the team made up of the following individuals:

Renelle Boissonneault (Lagimodière)  
Nathalie Lafond (Précieux-Sang)  
Rachelle Moroz (Gabrielle-Roy & Noël-Richot)  
Michelle Ruest (Taché)  
Jacqueline Saurette (Réal-Bérard)  
Bella Vincent (Saint-Georges)

Nathalie Gendron (Roméo-Dallaire)  
Julie-Lessard-Kulchyski (Saint-Joachim)  
Zoé Nakata (Saint-Joachim)  
Mélanie Sabourin (Saint-Jean-Baptiste)  
Colette Sawatsky (Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes)

The CPEF coordinators form a creative, dynamic team that is responsive to its clientele and that plays a key role in helping parents transmit the French language and culture to their children. By giving parents the tools they need to promote the French language and pass on their culture to their children, the coordinators help build a promising future for Manitoba's Francophone community.

The *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* is a joint initiative of the Société franco-manitobaine (SFM), the Manitoba Federal Council, the Manitoba Francophone Affairs Secretariat, and the Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM). It was created to recognize an employee or a group of employees of a governmental or quasi-governmental body at the federal, provincial or municipal level for distinguished service to Manitoba's Francophone community.

Officially launched in March 2005, the Award was 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.

“The future of our community depends on today's generation of young children and I congratulate these coordinators who work to enrich Manitoba's Francophone community on a daily basis,” commented Daniel Boucher, President/CEO of the Société franco-manitobaine. “The *Centres de la petite enfance et de la famille* meet a fundamental need thanks to the deep commitment of the coordinators.”

According to Marilyn Kapitany, Chair of the Manitoba Federal Council, “Through the collaborative efforts of governments and the community this award demonstrates a collective commitment to supporting educational and cultural initiatives benefiting Francophone families and the community.”



Guy Jourdain, Executive Director of the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, is pleased that the CPEF coordinators have garnered this recognition. “The CPEFs provide a range of indispensable services and resources that promote the development of a strong Francophone identity in the youngest members of our community. The coordinators are doing pioneering work in this field that is recognized at a national level. Their work and dynamic spirit unquestionably deserve our praise.”

“Ensuring the implementation of municipal services in French for citizens in Manitoba's bilingual municipalities is at the heart of the Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities' mission” commented Louis Tétrault, the Association's Executive Director. “The CPEFs provide services and resources in French that are key to the development and growth of our regions. Congratulations to the CPEFs' committed coordinators who make an enormous contribution to the development and vitality of Manitoba's bilingual communities.”

Members of the general public and public sector employees at the federal, provincial and municipal level were invited to submit nominations for the *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* by January 31, 2011.

The award ceremony was held at the Explore Manitoba Centre, located at The Forks, as part of the *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*. This is the fourth time the Award has been presented since its creation.

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