

Press Release

PRIX RONALD-DUHAMEL – RONALD DUHAMEL AWARD WINNER FOR 2023

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, May 12, 2023 – The *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* has been presented to Yvette Deveau for her leadership in developing projects of lasting importance at Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) for the delivery of French language services to the province's Francophone community.

This year's recipient has dedicated over 35 years of service to the Crown corporation. She personifies the highest standards in implementing the concept of an active offer of service and has earned praise from colleagues within and outside MPI for her passion in promoting French language services.

One example of her leadership has been the development and execution of a comprehensive audit on all aspects of the Crown corporation's delivery of services in French, including whether the presence of bilingual staff affected the outcome. The results now serve as a foundation for future service delivery to Manitoba's Francophone community. This audit also helped create awareness and buy-in from all levels of management within MPI to support the alignment of its yearly French language services goals with its aspirations to carry out the initiatives outlined in its multi-year strategic plan.

The *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* is a joint initiative of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM), Manitoba's Federal Network of Official Languages, 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 Member of Parliament, 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 several Francophone community initiatives at the national level.

"The level of involvement that Yvette Deveau has shown to ensure that MPI respects its commitments in terms of services in French and the active offer is remarkable," said Daniel Boucher, Executive Director of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine. "She is an asset to the Francophone community and we are pleased to acknowledge her contribution by awarding her this prize."

Brigitte Gibson, Regional Director General, Prairies and Northern Region, Department of Canadian Heritage, is pleased to congratulate Yvette Deveau for her continued commitment. "Yvette Deveau has distinguished herself as a French Language Services leader in her role at Manitoba Public Insurance and has been a champion for Manitoba's Francophone community. I applaud her dedication in creating positive change regarding French Language Services and responding to the need for the Francophone community to have bilingual access to all of MPI's services."

The Executive Director of the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, Teresa Collins, extends her congratulations to this year's recipient. "Yvette's passion and leadership have helped MPI make real and lasting improvements to its provision of services in French. Over the years, she has consistently demonstrated her genuine commitment to supporting Manitoba's Francophone community, and I cannot think of a more worthy recipient of this year's Ronald Duhamel Award."

"Yvette Deveau is a leader who believes not only in the value of our two official languages, but also in the importance of the partnership between the community and the province in order to reach tangible results for our communities," said Justin Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities. "It is a pleasure to collaborate with her and on behalf of the bilingual municipalities of Manitoba, I want to congratulate her for this distinction."

Members of the 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, 2023**.

The award ceremony took place at Manitoba Public Insurance's head office in downtown Winnipeg. This is the tenth time the Award has been presented since its creation.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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| Ben Maréga Regional Coordinator, Interdepartmental Cooperation Prairies & Northern Region Department of Canadian Heritage Government of Canada Telephone: 431-373-7683 | Kenza Zaoui Policy Analyst Francophone Affairs Secretariat Government of Manitoba Telephone: 204-945-4915 or 1 866 267-6114 | Justin Johnson Chief Executive Officer Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities 220 – 614 Des Meurons Street St. Boniface MB R2H 2P9 Telephone: 204-289-4077 or 1 800 990-2332 |
| Jean-Michel Beaudry Assistant Director Société de la francophonie manitobaine 106 – 147 Provencher Boulevard St. Boniface MB R2H 0G2 Telephone: 204-233-4915 or 1 800 665-4443 | http://www.prixronaldduhamelaward.mb.ca | |