
Press Release

PRIX RONALD-DUHAMEL – RONALD DUHAMEL AWARD WINNERS FOR 2007

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, March 19, 2007 – Officially launched in March 2005, the *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* was presented today at the St. Boniface Bilingual Service Centre. This is the second year the award has been given out. This year's winners are the members of the French Language Services Unit of the Regional Health Authority (RHA) – Central Manitoba Inc, who demonstrated leadership by incorporating French-language services into all health-service delivery efforts in their region.

A joint initiative of the *Société franco-manitobaine* (SFM), the Manitoba Federal Council and the Francophone Affairs 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 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 many minority Francophone community initiatives at the national level.

According to Ibrahima Diallo, who chairs the SFM Board of Directors, "working and living in French are facts that the Central Manitoba RHA quickly understood and incorporated into the services it offers. The initiatives undertaken by the Central Manitoba RHA set an example and are concrete proof that services continue to be provided in French."

Marilyn Kapitany, Chair of the Manitoba Federal Council, is delighted with the progress that the RHA has made in the Central Manitoba region. "We applaud the efforts of all who work to provide French-language services in Manitoba, and the Central Manitoba RHA's exemplary leadership deserves recognition. We congratulate its staff and the members of its Board of Directors who have been working for a number of years to provide services in French to the region's population."

For his part, Guy Jourdain, Senior Advisor with the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, is thrilled with the good relations that have developed among the Central Manitoba RHA, the local Francophone community and the provincial government. "Owing to the leadership, vision and active participation of the Central Manitoba RHA's French Language Services Unit, considerable progress has been made in many files, such as the opening of the St. Jean Baptiste Community Health Centre, the establishment of the Lourd on Wellness Centre and the creation of a mobile team to deliver primary health care."

Members of the general public and government employees were invited to submit nominations for the *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award* by February 21, 2007.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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