

For Immediate Release

Awards Recognize Exceptional Community Leaders

Montreal, September 9, 2016 - The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is pleased to announce that Montreal jazz legend Oliver Jones, former social worker and community volunteer Miriam Green and Townshippers' Association president Gerald Cutting will be honoured with the eighth annual Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award in October. Community advocate Dafina Savic will receive the second annual Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award.

A week before he passed away on Aug. 16, the Goldbloom Awards jury also decided to extend a special honour to federal MP Mauril Bélanger for his lifelong commitment to linguistic duality and his groundbreaking work in empowering the Official Languages Act. Under Bélanger's leadership, Canadian parliamentarians voted to amend Part VII of the act to oblige federal institutions to take "positive measures" to translate the government's commitment to promoting linguistic duality and community development into action.

"This year's honorees have all gone above and beyond in contributing to the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community," commented QCGN board member and jury chair Irene Tschernomor, explaining that is the main goal of the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award, created by QCGN in 2009. "Our juries are always impressed with the quality of nominees who are all outstanding and effective in their particular areas of community involvement."

An educator and former director general of Champlain Regional College, Gerald Cutting has totally immersed himself in community affairs since he retired in 2008. Over the past years, he has been an eloquent spokesperson for the English-speaking communities of the Eastern Townships and the whole of Quebec during public hearings on legislation to reform both health care (Bill 10) and education (Bill 86) that threatened to remove our community from the governance of our own institutions.

A social worker by training, Miriam Green's professional and volunteer contributions have helped to bolster the English-speaking community of Quebec and its institutions. Now the president of the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex board, Green was the first woman to serve as director general of a regional social service network at Ville Marie Health and Social Services Centre. A long-serving member of Alliance Quebec

in the '80s and '90s, Green also played a pivotal role in saving Montreal's Benny Farm low-cost housing project as a not-for-profit community venture.

One of Canada's best-known jazz pianists, Oliver Jones is as passionate about his community as he is about his music. When he is not performing, the soon-to-retire jazz great mentors young musicians and gets directly involved in his community of Little Burgundy. Recently, Jones spearheaded a fundraising campaign to revive Canada's oldest Black congregation performing several benefit concerts to repair and restore Union United Church. He also headlined a fundraiser for Seniors Action Quebec, and the proceeds of the Dr. Oliver Jones Golf Tournament go to enabling accessibility for the seniors of his congregation where he gave his debut performance at the age of five.

This year's Goldbloom winners were selected by an eminent jury of past winners and judges including Judy Martin, Kevin Tierney, Jack Jedwab and Tschernomor.

Dafina Savic is the second winner of the Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award, which QCGN created in 2015 in cooperation with the Fondation Notre Home Foundation and CBC Quebec to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of young English-speaking Quebecers engaged in innovative initiatives that create change in our communities. At 23, Savic founded Romanipe, a Montreal-based organization that fights for the rights of the Roma. Proficient in six languages, she has completed the OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme aimed at promoting dialogue in the defense of minority rights and has volunteered for various YMCAs of Montreal

Candidates for the Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award must be under the age of 30, have demonstrated outstanding leadership and contributed to an initiative with measurable impact in their community. Judges for the youth award included Alexander Gordon, the first ever winner of the award, past judge Judy Martin, CBC web and social media editor Molly Kohli, Foundation volunteer Matt Aranson and QCGN board director Jim Hughes.

Recipients of the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award and the Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award have been invited to attend a special community recognition ceremony on Oct. 27 at Montreal's St. James Club. Elysia Bryan-Baynes, host and anchor at Global Montreal, will emcee the event. Tickets can be reserved online now at <http://qcgnevents.com/>.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 48 English-language community organizations across Quebec. As a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action, it identifies, explores and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec and encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.

For further information:

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