

For Immediate Release

QCGN announces winners of Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Awards

Casper Bloom, Marjorie Goodfellow and Jack Jedwab to be honoured with new Community Service Award

MONTREAL, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 - The Quebec Community Groups Network is pleased to announce the winners of the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Awards. The first ever laureates have one thing in common – a lengthy and impressive record of community service. The winners are lawyer and longtime promoter of equality and English rights Casper Bloom, Eastern Townships-based healthcare advocate Marjorie Goodfellow, and researcher Jack Jedwab, who has contributed immensely to our knowledge and understanding of English-speaking Quebec.

The recipients of the 2009 Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award were selected from several outstanding nominees. A Blue Ribbon Panel of high-profile Quebecers led by John Parisella, former chief of staff to Robert Bourassa and Daniel Johnson and current President of BCP Communications, Senator David Angus, former McGill Chancellor Gretta Chambers and past Gazette Editor Norman Webster selected the laureates.

“There was such a wealth of impressive candidates; the selection process was not easy,” commented John Parisella, chairman of the Blue Ribbon Panel. He said the finalists were all bridge builders who operate well in French-language settings and many were successful because of their ability to operate “outside the box”.

The Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award was launched this year by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) to honour individuals who have made significant contributions to the vitality and understanding of Quebec's English-speaking Community and to building bridges of understanding between Quebecers of different backgrounds. The Network was honoured to name its community service award after Dr. and Mrs. Goldbloom who embody the values the award seeks to honour.

“For more than a half century, Dr. and Mrs. Goldbloom have invested their talents and skills for the betterment of the community and inspired others through their outstanding contributions to the vitality and reputation of English-speaking Quebec,” commented QCGN Robert Donnelly when the award was launched in May.

The dynamic Goldblooms, now both in their 80s, commented that one of the positive aspects of growing older is reaping the rewards of their many years of work and seeing new community leaders emerge.

“We see what these individuals have done and they've become models... to show us that we can be a part of the larger and smaller communities,” commented Sheila Goldbloom about the winners. “They send the message: This is a vital community and we should play a part.”

“This award stimulates all of us to do things on behalf of our communities, not just for the tangible reward,” added Dr. Victor Goldbloom, a former Liberal Minister and past Commissioner of Official Languages.

The first-ever Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Awards will be presented during the Annual General Meeting of the Quebec Community Groups Network in Gatineau, Quebec on September 12, 2009. The Annual General Meeting is being held concurrently with festivities in the National Capital Region marking the 40th anniversary of the Official Languages Act. Our Community Recognition Evening and Awards Ceremony will be emceed by CBC Radio’s Bernard St-Laurent, the host of Homerun.

The Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award is sponsored in part by a generous donation from Hydro-Québec. Our Community Recognition Evening has also received generous donations from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, TLC Global Inc., and Desjardins’ Caisse d’économie sociale.

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