

For Immediate Release

Guy Rodgers named Compagnon (Champion) of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec
ELAN's Executive Director honoured for his "remarkable contribution" to arts and culture in Quebec

Montreal: March 24, 2015 – ELAN's Executive Director, **Guy Rodgers**, was inducted as a Compagnon (Champion) of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec in a ceremony Monday evening.

As part of the events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ), the honour was bestowed upon 35 of the province's most revered creators and passionate champions of the arts for their "remarkable contribution" to the promotion of Quebecois arts and culture. This honour places Rodgers in the company of such luminaries as poet and songwriter **Leonard Cohen**, filmmaker and actor **Xavier Dolan**, jazz pianist **Oliver Jones**, and architect and philanthropist **Phyllis Lambert**.

Rodgers also shares the honour with his fellow members of the founding Board of Directors of CALQ, on which he and architect **Melvin Charney** (who was honoured posthumously) were the sole anglophone representatives. "The creation of CALQ was an important milestone," says Rodgers. "CALQ has ensured that quality artistic work is recognized and rewarded."

Through his active involvement with CALQ and other cultural institutions including le Conseil québécois du théâtre, Montréal Capital mondiale du livre, and Culture Montréal, Rodgers has worked to "chip away at the mutual ignorance that perpetuated the Two Solitudes." He recalls a time when "nobody was betting that there would ever be an English-language artistic revival in Quebec, or that the majority of anglos would make serious efforts to learn French." For Rodgers, this honour provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made. "English-speaking artists are recognized as full members of Quebec's cultural family. This is good for all Quebecers."

ELAN (English-Language Arts Network) is a not-for-profit organization that connects and supports the 8,500 English-language artists living and working in Quebec. Its members and community include diverse artists working across a multitude of artistic and cultural disciplines.

For more information, press photos, or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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