



The YMCAs of Québec Peace Medals 2013 Presentation of laureates by category

Honorary laureate

Jean-François Lépine

Now president of the Middle Eastern and North African Observatory (OMAN), attached to UQAM's Raoul-Dandurand Chair, Jean-François Lépine has brought courage and sensibility to his journalistic practice throughout his 40-year career at Radio-Canada. Lépine began working as a writer and a reporter in 1971 before he became a journalist and then host of the radio show *Présent*, in 1975. From 1978 until the beginning of the 80s, Lépine was Radio-Canada's parliamentary correspondent in Québec City and, during the 1980s, went on to become a foreign correspondent stationed in Beijing, Paris and Jerusalem.

Upon his return to Canada, he created the radio show *Enjeux*, which he hosted from 1990 to 1992. He later became host of *Le Point* for most of the 90s. With an enduring passion for international politics and major social issues, Lépine took the helm at *Zone libre* from 1998 to 2007, then at *Une heure sur Terre* from 2007 to 2013.

Widely recognized for his work as a journalist, Lépine has been granted the Amnesty International Media Award (2002), the *Grand prix Judith Jasmin* (1989 and 1990) as well as ten *Gémeaux*. He is married to the actor Mireille Deyglun and has written a biography of her mother, Janine Sutto.

Holding a BA from the Université Laval and an MA in Political Science from the Université de Québec à Montréal, Jean-François Lépine exemplifies rigour and excellence, and is a beacon of compassionate journalism.

For Géraldine Muhlmann, author of *Journalism for Democracy*, a journalist should strive to advance a more nuanced and diverse understanding of reality in the democratic public sphere. "Always curious, he is intent on providing varied points of view,"¹ she

¹ *Du journalisme en démocratie. Éditions Payot & Rivages, 2004. (Our translation)*

writes. We believe that, with his "...inquisitive eye, prepared to enrich the 'ordinary' with the 'unexpected'," ² Jean-François Lépine embodies this ideal.

Youth Peacemaker

Ana Pranjić

Ana was always a spirited young girl. As of the age of 9, she was involved with Scouts Canada and has been working with the organization as an activity leader for young scouts aged 7 to 12 since 2009. As part of her studies in psychology at McGill University, Ana presented a women's leadership project to a Peruvian NGO with the aim of implementing a cocoa processing project. A creative and inspiring role model for these young scouts, she fosters awareness by focusing on daily actions that can make a difference. She spends approximately 75% of her waking hours with the scouts or involved with local and international development projects.

Volunteer Peacemaker

Gordon Edwards

A career educator, Dr. Gordon Edwards has long been an activist against the nuclear industry in Québec and Canada. He initiated several citizen action campaigns against this form of energy and played a large role in a campaign opposing the mining of uranium in Sept-Îles. He has helped the people of Québec and many Canadians understand the issues surrounding the management of nuclear energy. Since these issues are closely linked to military action, war and peace, he has earned the title of peacemaker.

Local Peace Initiative

Québec Native Women

Québec Native Women is an organization that has been promoting non-violent behaviours within Québec's Aboriginal communities for over 20 years. Specifically, the organization lends support to shelters for victims of domestic violence in various communities and also offers non-violent conflict resolution workshops. Québec Native Women is responsible for several movements in Québec's Aboriginal communities and has enabled the silence to be broken on the alarming situation that Aboriginal women face. As a result, the organization has made a significant impact on a particularly vulnerable demographic.

² *ibid.*

International Peace Initiative

Lise Gagnon

Lise Gagnon has been the Vice-President of *Les Artisans de Paix Internationale* for the last eight years. This foundation develops community projects in Haitian refugee villages in the Dominican Republic. The villages have no running water, sewage systems, electricity or source of income. Some noteworthy projects Lise has developed include the creation of a community centre and a family health clinic, community meals and fitness activities for children. All of these projects enable the Haitian refugees to establish peaceful and respectful relationships with Dominicans. This respect has laid a foundation for peace.

Coup de coeur

Living Together

A joint initiative between McGill University, the Saint-Laurent YMCA and the *Centre des Loisirs de Saint-Laurent*, Living Together is an innovative youth leadership program that brings together 16 teens from Montréal's Jewish and Arab communities. Together, the participants held an exhibition of self-portraits and created a short film and an illustrated children's book entitled "The Story of Potato and Sweet Potato", which is aimed at raising children's awareness on the lack of understanding and communication between Jewish and Arab communities. Living Together illustrates how it is possible to develop ties between these two communities, which have more commonalities than differences.