



PRESS RELEASE

**Meet the Laureates of the 2014 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards
13 Women – 13 Paths – 13 Sources of inspiration**

Montreal, May 5, 2014 – The YWCA Montreal, its Foundation and BFL CANADA are pleased to announce the names of the 13 women of distinction that will be honoured at the 21st Women of Distinction Awards, taking place on September 30, 2014, at the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

Barry F. Lorenzetti, president, CEO and founder of BFL CANADA, will be the honorary chair at this year's awards ceremony. He promises an unforgettable event, worthy of its winners, complete with music from the acclaimed Beatles tribute band Replay.

Exceptional laureates

"The high calibre of candidates this year made it very difficult for the selection committee to choose 13 winners," says Anne Mezei, president of the Women's Y Foundation Board of Directors. The women of distinction, who come from various sectors—business, the arts, education, science, sports, health and the environment—stand out for their passion, perseverance and talent.

Meet this year's 13 laureates:

- **Woman of Outstanding Achievement, presented by R3D Consulting: Louise Roy, O.C., O.Q., Chancelor and Chair of the board, Université de Montréal and Chair of the board, Center for Interuniversity Research and Analysis of Organizations (CIRANO)**
- **YWCA Woman: Mispa Nkuh Basa, Participant of the Employability programs at the YWCA Montreal and Social Worker, CLSC de Saint-Léonard.**
- **Arts and Culture: Francine Lelièvre, Executive Director, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex**
- **Business and Professions, presented by Desjardins: Christine Décarie, Senior Vice-President, Portfolio Manager and Head of Global Research, Investors Group Inc.**
- **Communications, presented by Bell: Marianna Simeone, Journalist and President, MS MEDIA**
- **Education, presented by BMO Financial Group: Wendy Thomson, Director and Professor, School of Social Work, McGill University**
- **Entrepreneurship, presented by TD Bank Group: Daniele Henkel, Founder and President, Les Entreprises Daniele Henkel**
- **Environment, presented by Cascades Tissue Group: Sylvie Guilbault, Executive Director, Les amis de la montagne**
- **Health, presented by Pharmaprix: Gyslaine Desrosiers, Consultant, Gyslaine Desrosiers Conseil Inc. and President of the board of directors of the Secrétariat international des infirmières et infirmiers de l'espace francophone (SIDIIEF)**
- **Science and Technology, presented by Cogeco: Nathalie Tufenkji, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of Chemical Engineering and Associate Director, Brace Center for Water Resources Management, McGill University**
- **Social Commitment, presented by Standard Life: Lucie Joyal, Executive Director, Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent**

- **Sports and Wellness, presented by Scotiabank: Caroline Ouellette**, Athlete and four-times Olympic medalist in women's hockey
- **Young Woman of Distinction, presented by National Bank: Cathy Wong**, President, Conseil des Montréalaises and Development Agent of the Youth Sector, YMCAs of Québec

Building a better future requires inspiring role models

The Women of Distinction Awards are undeniably a great source of inspiration. “The YWCA Montreal strongly believes that inspiring female role models and the contributions of these women of distinction are crucial to encouraging female leadership,” says Chantal Laberge, president of the YWCA Montreal Board of Directors.

2014 Women of Distinction Awards

The 21st Women of Distinction Awards will take place on September 30, 2014, at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. Since 1994, the Women of Distinction Awards, organized by the YWCA Montreal and its Foundation, has honoured the achievements of more than 230 women. All proceeds from the event will go to supporting the YWCA Montreal’s activities and building a better future for women and girls.

This major event is made possible through the generous contributions of our evening Emeritus and categories partners as well as: the Secrétariat à la condition féminine, the Ordre des comptables professionnels agréés du Québec and McKesson Canada.

Tuesday, September 30, 2014, at the Palais des congrès de Montréal

For more information: prix@ydesfemmesmtl.org or Fondation.Ydesfemmesmtl.org

To purchase tickets or tables: **514 866-9944** or prix@ydesfemmesmtl.org

Since 1875, through its innovative, tailored programs, the YWCA has helped thousands of women and girls by increasing their skills, self-esteem, autonomy and personal growth, and by striving to prevent violence. The organization is working to build a better future for women and girls in a just society where they have the power and opportunity to achieve their full potential.

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Source and reservations:

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