

2015 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS NIGHT: A SUCCESS WORTHY OF THE 13 PRESTIGIOUS LAUREATES AND A 140TH ANNIVERSARY

Montréal, October 1st 2015 – YWCA Montreal and its Foundation held a fabulously successful 22nd edition of the Women of Distinction Awards Night last Tuesday at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. The gala benefit honoured 13 prestigious laureates from diverse fields, and simultaneously celebrated YWCA Montreal's 140th anniversary. The event garnered \$262,000 to support the YWCA Montreal's programs and activities for women and girls in Greater Montreal.

During the awards ceremony, moderated by former journalist Josée Thibeault, attendees watched video clips presenting each laureate and her partner for the category. The remarks of Colette Lafrance, "YWCA Woman" laureate, and participant in the YWCA's residential services, deeply touched everyone present, bringing them all to their feet.

Actor Mélanie Pilon, well known for her roles in the TV series *19-2* and *Unité 9*, hosted the banquet segment of the evening. The crowd of 560 enjoyed an aerial silk number presented by the Cirque Eloize, accompanied by the song *Quand le voyage devient possible*, created especially for the YWCA's 140th anniversary, written and sung by the duo *Nos deux*, featuring David Pelletier and Tania Langlois.

To complete the fundraising component, attendees were invited to take part in a draw for over 150 prizes, all of them offered to the YWCA Montreal by generous donors. Two special grand prizes capped it all off: a winter weekend for 20 people at the Auberge & spa Couleurs de France in Duhamel, Québec, and a trip for two to Las Vegas, including flight, hotel for three nights, and two tickets to Céline Dion's new show.

For video clips of the laureates, gala photos, official laureate photos, list of partners, and the 140th anniversary song, visit www.ydesfemmesmtl.org/En/Laureates-2015-en.html

The Women of Distinction awards are the only awards honouring women's leadership in so many categories.

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Since 1875, the YWCA of Montreal has dedicated itself to preventing violence, and developing the skills, self-esteem, independence, and personal development of women and girls. In this way, it helps to build a better future for women and girls, with the vision of a just society in which women and girls have power and the opportunity to participate to the full extent of their abilities.

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