



**For immediate release**

**2009 Women of Distinction Awards  
CALL FOR CANDIDATES**

Montreal, March 23, 2009 – Who will receive a prestigious Women of Distinction Award in 2009? The YWCA Montreal launches the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Women of Distinction Awards with a call for candidates.

In 1994, the YWCA Montreal joined with the national YWCA movement to present the first Women of Distinction Awards to honour the achievements of exceptional women. Since then, more than 175 women have received a Women of Distinction Award from the YWCA Montreal including Ms. Micheline Bouchard, Ms. Nathalie Lambert, Ms. Léa Pool, Ms. Ariane Moffat and Ms. Karen Radford.

The Women of Distinction Awards are given to women who are represented in eleven categories: Arts and Culture, Business and Professions, Communications, Community Service, Education, Entrepreneurship, Science and Health, and Sports and Wellness. An award is also given to a Young Woman of Distinction and the Advancement of Women and Pioneer awards are given to women who have made an extraordinary contribution to the advancement of women. The Women of Distinction selection criteria are influence, impact, achievement and actions.

The presentation of the 2009 Women of Distinction Awards allows the Women's Y Foundation to publicly recognize the contribution of exceptional women and to raise some \$250,000 for the YWCA Montreal programs.

The nomination period ends on Friday, May 1, 2009. Laureates will be honoured at an awards ceremony on Monday, September 21, 2009.

Those interested in presenting a candidate for consideration can obtain a nomination form on the YWCA Montreal website at: [www.ydesfemmesmtl.org](http://www.ydesfemmesmtl.org) or by contacting the Foundation at (514) 866-9941, extension 239.

For more than 130 years, the YWCA Montreal has supported women of all ages and backgrounds in their personal, professional and economic development. Each year, the YWCA serves 16,000 children, girls and women by offering them literacy programs, affordable housing, a residence for women in difficulty, leadership programs as well as employability and entrepreneurship programs. The YWCA Montreal is part of a YWCA world movement, present in 122 countries, reaching 25 million women and girls around the world.

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