



Women of Distinction



Information and nomination booklet



Fondation Y DES FEMMES
WOMEN'S Y *Foundation*

MONTRÉAL

Women of Distinction Awards 2009

Nominate a candidate in the following categories:

- **Young Woman of Distinction**
- **Arts and Culture**
- **Business and Professions**
- **Communications**
- **Community Service**
- **Education**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Health and Science**
- **Sports and Wellness**
- **Advancement of Women**
- **Pioneer**

Deadline for submitting a candidate for nomination : Friday May 1, 2009

Women of Distinction Awards

What is a Woman of Distinction?

She is a woman who by her daily actions, her strength of character and her professional path, enriches the community and contributes to the advancement of all women. She is an exceptional woman who serves as a role model for young people, inspiring others to excel.

In 1994, the YWCA Montreal joined with the national YWCA movement to honour these women by presenting its first Women of Distinction Awards.

The annual ceremony, held in September in Montreal, publicly recognizes and honours eleven exceptional women in different sectors of activity.

The popularity of the Women of Distinction Awards makes this event one of the principal sources of fundraising for the Women's Y Foundation. The money raised at this event will help finance programs offered to the 16,000 women who use the services of the YWCA Montreal each year.

This year, the Foundation is celebrating the 16th anniversary of the Women of Distinction Awards ceremony, which will be held on September 21, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Eligibility Criteria

- Women who are at least 18 years old by the date of the awards ceremony.
- Not active in politics (municipal, provincial or federal) for at least 12 months.
- Having lived or worked in the following regions for at least 6 months : Montreal, Laval, Lanaudière, Laurentides, Montérégie, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue.
- Have a verifiable record of her contribution to the advancement of women.
- Willing to be a candidate, even if her nomination is submitted by a third party.
- Agrees to be present at the awards ceremony (each laureate will receive one complimentary ticket).
- Employees of the YWCA Montreal and the Women's Y Foundation, and the members of their boards of directors and committees, cannot submit a candidate for an award.
- Candidates cannot submit their nomination in a category sponsored by their employer or their organization.

Regulations

- Nominations may be submitted by the candidate herself, by another person, by an organization or by members of the Nominating Committee.
- Each candidate must meet all the evaluation criteria and her nomination must be accompanied by a duly completed nomination booklet which clearly illustrates why the candidate meets all the evaluation criteria.
- Candidates cannot be submitted for more than one award per year; however a candidate can be nominated again if her nomination has not previously been accepted.
- A candidate cannot be nominated in a category that she has previously won. She may however receive more than one award during her lifetime (for example the Advancement of Women and/or Pioneer Awards).
- The Women of Distinction Awards are not given posthumously.

Selection Process

- Call for nominations by the Foundation and the members of the Nomination Committee.
- Reception and validation of dossiers.
- The Nomination Committee examines the dossiers and recommends 3 nominees per category.
- The Jury meets to select the Women of Distinction in each category.
- The Foundation announces the results to all the candidates and then publicly announces the 2009 Women of Distinction.
- The 2009 Women of Distinction are honoured at the September 21, 2009 awards ceremony.

Women of Distinction Awards are given to women who meet the following criteria:

Young Woman of Distinction

- Be 18 to 30 years old.
- Show significant contributions and achievement in her studies, work or community activities.

Arts and Culture

- Work in the field of music, sculpture, architecture, literature or visual, audiovisual, applied or performing arts.

Business and Professions

- Be a business woman, a manager or a professional.
- Hold the actual position for at least 12 months.

Communications

- Work in the field of journalism, advertising, public relations, media or communications.

Community Service

- Be involved in a social cause, for a non-profit organization or a volunteer group.

Education

- Work in the field of teaching, professional training and development, community education or alternative teaching.

Entrepreneurship

- Be a woman entrepreneur who owns or manages a business.
- Hold the actual position since at least 12 months.

Health and Science

- Work in a science-related field, including pure and applied science, social science, health science, engineering, life science, environmental science or sustainable development.

Sports & Wellness

- Work in the field of sports, physical fitness, recreation or general fitness.

Advancement of Women

- Have clearly contributed to the advancement of women.
- Have an impact that exceeds her area of activity.

Pioneer

- Have clearly contributed to the advancement of women, throughout her life.
- Have paved the way for women following in her footsteps.
- Be recognized for her exceptional achievements.

Evaluation Criteria

For the Young Woman of Distinction, Arts and Culture, Business and Professions, Communications, Community Service, Education, Entrepreneurship, Science and Health and Sports and Wellness Awards, the evaluation criteria are the following:

- Influence – a role model, agent for change and a source of inspiration and motivation for women and girls.
- Impact – in her chosen field, in the community or on a national or international level.
- Achievement – how the candidate has opened doors for other women or is a leader, and the recognition she has received.
- Action – actions, initiatives and notable achievements that have clearly contributed to the advancement of women.

For the Advancement of Women Award, the evaluation criteria are the following:

- Action - actions, initiatives and notable achievements that have clearly contributed to the advancement of women.
- Influence – a role model, agent of change and a source of inspiration and motivation for women and girls.
- Impact – provincial, national or international impact.
- Personal and social commitment – contribution as a volunteer to an organization working for the advancement of women.
- Achievement – how the candidate has opened doors for other women or is a leader, and the recognition she has received.

For the Pioneer Award, the evaluation criteria are the following:

- Action – actions, initiatives and notable achievements that have clearly contributed to the advancement of women and that have stood the test of time.
- Influence – opened doors for other women; a role model, agent of change and source of inspiration and motivation for women and girls.
- Impact – in her chosen field, in her community or on a national or international level.
- Achievement – the candidate is a pioneer or leader, and is recognized for her exceptional achievement.

Criteria Weighting

For the Young Woman of Distinction, Arts and Culture, Business and Professions, Communications, Community Service, Education, Entrepreneurship, Science and Health and Sports and Wellness Awards, the criteria used to assess the candidates' dossiers will be assigned the following weight:

- Influence – 35 %
- Impact – 35 %
- Achievement – 20 %
- Action – 10 %

For the Advancement of Women Award, the criteria will be assigned the following weight:

- Action – 35 %
- Influence – 25 %
- Impact – 20 %
- Personal and social commitment – 10 %
- Achievement – 10 %

For the Pioneer Award, the criteria will be assigned the following weight:

- Action – 35 %
- Influence – 35 %
- Impact – 15 %
- Achievement – 15 %

Procedure

The nomination packages must include the following:

- Curriculum vitae or biography outlining professional and volunteer activities as well as awards and other accomplishments, and highlighting the most outstanding professional, social and community achievements or projects.
- Completed and signed nominating form.
- Two letters of support or testimonials about the candidate's activities or achievements, related to the evaluation criteria.
- Two recent 5 X 7 portrait photos or electronic photos.

Only duly completed submissions will be considered.

Submissions must be sent to the Women's Y Foundation by post, messenger or by e-mail no later than Friday May 1, 2009 (postmarked May 1, 2009). Send the submission to the following address:

Women's Y Foundation
Nominations, Woman of Distinction Award
1355 René-Lévesque Blvd. West
Montreal QC H3G 1T3
or by e-mail at swong@ydesfemmesmtl.org

Dossier

Part 1: Submission form Candidate information

Candidate submitted for the _____ Award.

Last name _____ First name _____
Birth date _____

RESIDENCE

Telephone _____
Address _____
City _____ Postal code _____
E-mail _____

ORGANIZATION

Title _____
Name of organization _____
Telephone _____
Address _____
City _____ Postal code _____
E-mail _____

I am available to take part in interviews with the written, radiophonic and/or televisual press. I also consent to the transmission of my contact information by the Women's Y Foundation, to the journalists interested in interviewing me.

Signature _____ Date _____

I consent to the unpaid use of my name, portrait or other photos taken within the framework of the Women of Distinction 2009 Awards, as well as other professional or personal information I have provided to the Women's Y Foundation for the publicity and promotion of the 2009 Women of Distinction Awards, before, during and after the actual event. I also agree that this information is to remain the property of the Women's Y Foundation.

Signature _____ Date _____

____ I confirm that if I am a laureate I will be present at the awards ceremony on September 21, 2009. *(please put a checkmark)*

Information about the person or organization submitting the nomination:

Last name _____ First name _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ Postal code _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____
Your association with the candidate _____

Part 2: Questionnaire to determine how nominees fulfill the evaluation criteria

Candidates submitted for the following Women of Distinction Awards:

- Young Woman of Distinction
- Arts and Culture, Business and Professions, Communications, Community Service, Education, Entrepreneurship, Science and Health and Sports and Wellness Awards

This part of the nomination form is obligatory and must be completed in order to allow an objective analysis of the candidates and how they meet the evaluation criteria.

Describe how the candidate is a role model, agent for change and a source of inspiration and motivation for women and girls. (200 words maximum)

Describe the impact of the candidate in her chosen field, in the community or on a national or international level. (200 words maximum)

Describe how the candidate has opened doors for other women or is a leader, and the recognition she has received. (200 words maximum)

Describe the actions, initiatives and notable achievements that have clearly contributed to the advancement of women. (200 words maximum)

Part 2: Questionnaire to determine how nominees fulfill the evaluation criteria
Candidates submitted for the Advancement of Women Award.

This part of the nomination form is obligatory and must be completed in order to allow an objective analysis of the candidates and how they meet the evaluation criteria.

Describe the candidate's actions, initiatives and notable achievements that have clearly contributed to the advancement of women. (200 words maximum)

Describe how the candidate is a role model, agent of change and a source of inspiration and motivation for women and girls. (200 words maximum)

Describe the candidate's provincial, national or international impact. (200 words maximum)

Describe the candidate's contribution as a volunteer to an organization working for the advancement of women. (200 words maximum)

Describe how the candidate has opened doors for other women or is a leader, and the recognition she has received. (200 words maximum)

About the YWCA Montreal

A part of Montreal life since 1875, the YWCA Montreal is closely associated with social progress and the advancement of woman, that have made a significant impact on life in Quebec: food banks, social housing, education and literacy; access for women to the workforce and to physical fitness, the promotion of women's rights and equality.

Today, the YWCA's mission is realized through 4 areas of action: the prevention of all forms of violence and the development of self-esteem, autonomy and personal growth for women and girls from Montreal's diverse cultural communities.

Its mission is fulfilled through 5 principle programs adapted to the real needs of girls and women in order to give them the power to achieve:

- **Housing**
- **Literacy**
- **Leadership**
- **Employability**
- **Entrepreneurship**

The YWCA Montreal directly reaches more than 16,000 children, girls and women and provides services to close to 50,000 people each year.

The Women's Y Foundation was created in 1995 to insure a stable and ongoing source of financing for the YWCA Montreal's programs and services. The Foundation solicits donations from individuals, foundations and corporations through various fundraising activities as well as its presentation of the Women of Distinction awards ceremony.

For any additional information, please contact:

Women's Y Foundation

1355 René-Lévesque Blvd. West
Montreal QC H3G 1T3

Telephone : (514) 866-9944

E-mail : swong@ydesfemmesmtl.org

Web Site: www.ydesfemmesmtl.org