

Me Ewa Gerus wins the Saint-Yves Medal

The highest award for volunteer commitment in the field of legal services

Montreal, October 27, 2015 – The YWCA Montreal is proud to announce that Me Ewa Gerus, a volunteer with its Legal Information Clinic since 2004, has been awarded the 2015 Saint-Yves Medal at the Lawyer Emeritus Distinction Special Awards Ceremony, held on October 26th by le Barreau du Québec. This medal, awarded annually by ProBono Québec, is the highest award bestowed on a lawyer in recognition of their contribution and commitment as a volunteer in the area of legal services.

The YWCA nominated Me Gerus for this prize last June to pay tribute to her exceptional contribution to the organization's Legal Information Clinic for more than 10 years, where she offers private and free consultations to women and families. Ms. Gerus is involved in many other community organizations, such as the Montreal Women's Centre and the Arnold Bennett Housing Rights Clinic (YMCA Montreal) and gives conferences on family law in women's shelters to victims of conjugal violence. More recently, in March 2014, she established and financed a legal aid clinic in family law at Centre Greene in Westmount.

The generosity, openness and sincerity of Me Gerus facilitate the communication of knowledge and allow each person seeking her advice to feel welcomed and supported. Humbled and touched by this award, she states: **“for me, the Saint-Yves Medal signifies a commitment and accessibility to justice. The cornerstone of justice is that it be accessible and humane. This achievement is not unique, but is based on principals of sharing that is a hallmark of the YWCA Montreal. I want to share this award with those who have allowed me to achieve this ideal of justice, as well as the women who have resolutely worked to make justice accessible, humane and affordable”.**

In existence for more than 30 years, the YWCA Montreal Legal Information Clinic promotes access to justice. For further information about this service, please consult the website at: http://www.ydesfemmesmtl.org/En/Legal_Information_Clinic.html

Since 1875, [YWCA Montreal](http://www.ywcamontreal.org) has been working to improve the lives of women and girls by increasing their skills, self-esteem and autonomy; encouraging their personal growth; and preventing all forms of violence. The organization is working to build a better future for women and girls in a just society where women and girls have the power and opportunity to realize their full potential.

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