

1906-2006

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NEWS RELEASE / CCV

Simon Fraser University honoured for its contributions to bilingualism and Francophone and Francophile Education

Vancouver, B.C. (April 27, 2007) The Canadian Club of Vancouver (CCV) took great pride in presenting the Baldwin-Lafontaine Award to Dr. Michael Stevenson, President of Simon Fraser University, in recognition of its important contributions to the province's Francophone and Francophile population. The presentation of this award took place on Thursday, April 26, following the CCV 5th annual French luncheon with guest speaker Mr. Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages. Close to 300 people, including 100 students, took part in this activity.

Since its creation in 2003, the Baldwin-Lafontaine Award honours an organization who has demonstrated a commitment to bilingualism in the community and undertaken activities which bring together Anglophones and Francophones.

With this award, the CCV recognizes the valued contributions of Simon Fraser University's President, Dr. Michael Stevenson. His unconditional support led to the creation of the Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs and the implementation of many French language initiatives such as the B.A. in Public Administration and Community Services and the Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

According to Dr. Jean Watters, President of the CCV, Simon Fraser University has been receptive towards the aspirations, wishes and needs of British Columbia's Francophones and Francophiles. "Since 2002, Simon Fraser University has displayed a great deal of openness. As a result of Dr. Stevenson's leadership, courage and determination, the level of educational services offered in French in the Province has increased significantly. The situation of Francophones and Francophiles is continuing to improve as a result of Dr. Stevenson's vision and support."

"Simon Fraser University is deeply honoured to receive this award," said Dr. Michael Stevenson, "It has been a pleasure for us to work with our dynamic Francophone and Francophile communities to help it realize its tremendous potential."

The selection committee chaired by Ms. Renée Popov, Vice President of the CCV, was unanimous in selecting the recipient of the award. "The benefits of Simon Fraser University's receptiveness have a far reaching impact for British Columbia's Francophones and Francophiles and it is evident that the Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs, led by Dr. Yolande Grisé, fills an enormous educational gap," stated Ms. Popov. "The openness demonstrated by

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Simon Fraser University is extremely beneficial in promoting bilingualism and uniting Anglophones and Francophones in British Columbia.”

First awarded in 2003, the CCV Baldwin-Lafontaine Award commemorates the alliance of two statesmen, Robert Baldwin and Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine, which led to the establishment of Canada’s democratic system. To be eligible for this honour, the recipient will have, among others, demonstrated a commitment to bilingualism as well as undertaken projects or activities which bring together Anglophones and Francophones.

Past winners of the Baldwin-Lafontaine Award are: The Government of British Columbia (2206); Proscenium Architecture + Interiors Inc. and *La Maison de la francophonie* (2005); the United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society and *l’Alliance française de Vancouver* (2004); Canadian Parents for French – B.C. & Yukon Chapters – and *Le Collège Éducacentre* (2003).

Regards,

CANADIAN CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Jean Watters,
President

Encl.