



# PRIME MINISTER'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

## CELEBRATING CANADIANS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



### MAKING CANADA STRONGER

The Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards (PMVA) have been created to recognize the exceptional contributions of volunteers, local businesses and innovative not-for-profit organizations in improving the well-being of families and their communities across the country. These contributions have an enormous impact and make Canada stronger by initiating change and inspiring hope.

### AWARDS OVERVIEW

Seventeen PMVAs will be granted in total, consisting of two national awards and fifteen regional awards.

Regional award recipients will be eligible to identify a not-for-profit organization to receive a \$5,000 grant, and national award recipients will be eligible to identify a not-for-profit organization to receive a \$10,000 grant.

### NATIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES

One award will be given every year in each of these two categories:

**Lifelong Achievement**—to recognize individuals who have made a difference in their communities by volunteering and by providing leadership over the course of their lives (generally for a period of at least 20 years).

**Emerging Leader**—to recognize new volunteers who are helping to build stronger communities through exceptional voluntary leadership, and who have made a positive difference in their community over a short period of time (generally for a period of less than three years).

### REGIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES

One award in each of these categories will be given per region:

**Community Leader**—to recognize individuals or groups who have taken a lead role in developing solutions to local problems.

**Business Leader**—to recognize businesses that demonstrate social responsibility in their business practices.

**Social Innovator**—to recognize not-for-profit organizations that demonstrate innovation in addressing social challenges.

The five regions include:

- Atlantic (New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island)
- Quebec
- Ontario
- Prairies (Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan)
- British Columbia and the North (Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon)

### WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

Nominees can be individuals or groups, businesses, or not-for-profit organizations. Nominators may be any person or organization with direct knowledge of the nominee's contribution.

Nominees in all award categories must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Individual nominees must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons within the meaning of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, and at least 18 years of age.
- Eligible organizations must be Canadian (i.e. registered not-for-profits or businesses registered in Canada).
- All nominees must have contributed to addressing social challenges in their community.
- Political and public advocacy work are excluded.

### NOMINATIONS AND AWARD CEREMONY

The call for nominations period is open between **July 12 and October 14, 2011**. Award recipients will be formally announced at an award ceremony in early 2012.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards, the types of awards, the call for nominations, eligibility criteria and how to submit nominations, please visit the Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards website at [www.pm.gc.ca/awards](http://www.pm.gc.ca/awards) or call **1-877-825-0434**.

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