



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ
AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

EDITH CLOUTIER AND DOMINIQUE T8AMINIK RANKIN: EXCEPTIONAL ABORIGINAL CITIZENS RECIPIENTS OF THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

Wendake, August 2nd, 2012 – At the closing ceremony of the Annual General Assembly of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) last July 31st, in Whitehorse, Yukon, Édith Cloutier was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work as President of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec. Dominique T8aminik Rankin, who is the Elder and Senator for the Native Friendship Centre Movement, also received a Diamond Jubilee Medal to honour his dedicated involvement as part of our Movement in Quebec and Canada.

RCAAQ Vice-President Christine Jean accepted Ms. Cloutier's medal on behalf of the President. This award adds to the recognition Ms. Cloutier already enjoys for her unflagging efforts to promote mutual understanding among peoples and bring about better knowledge of the realities, issues and challenges facing urban Aboriginal people. Ms. Cloutier is a role model for Aboriginal women due to her proactive leadership, her engaged and passionate advocacy, and her strong convictions and desire in seeking to create a fair and just society for all.

Our Elder and NAFC Senator, Dominique T8aminik Rankin, received this same award from NAFC Executive Director Jeffrey Cyr in honour of his important achievements, marked as much by their spirituality as by their professionalism, in promoting and transmitting Aboriginal culture. An accomplished leader, healer, teacher and communicator, T8aminik is known also for his wonderful sense of humour and overflowing energy.

Created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal will be awarded to 60,000 Canadians to honour their important accomplishments and exceptional service to other citizens, their communities and their country.

For the past 35 years, the RCAAQ has been working to defend the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal people, and to support the Native Friendship Centres in carrying out their mission to improve the quality of life of urban Aboriginal people, promote culture and foster mutual understanding between peoples. For more information, please visit our website at www.rcaaq.info.

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