



COMMUNIQUÉ For immediate release

Edith Cloutier is appointed a Member of the Order of Canada

Wendake, July 3rd, 2013 – It is with great pride that the *Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)* announces that its President, Ms. Edith Cloutier, has been appointed Member of the Order of Canada for her contribution to improving the living conditions of urban Aboriginals, particularly through the Native Friendship Centre Movement.

“Edith is an inspiring and visionary woman. She is also a very humble person who has always advocated the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal citizens. This recognition of her life path is a great pride for us. I think of all the positive impacts such an appointment will have on Aboriginal women and youth. Edith is living proof that with perseverance, one can advance a cause; her work motivates us to do even better,” said Christine Jean, Vice-President of the RCAAQ.

The Order of Canada is one of the country's highest civilian honours. It was created in 1967, during Canada's centennial year, to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. According to the Governor General's website, more than 6,000 persons in all sectors of Canadian society have been appointed Member of the order over the last 46 years.

President of the RCAAQ for several years and Executive Director of the Val d'Or Native Friendship Centre since the age of 23, Édith Cloutier was awarded the title of *Woman of Action and Knowledge* by the Quebec Native Women (2005). She received the *Prix d'honneur de la citoyenne de la Société nationale des Québécoises et des Québécois d'Abitibi-Témiscamingue* (2005) and the *Female Personality of the Year FILON Award* from the Val d'Or Chamber of Commerce (2004). She appears in an exhibit entitled “The Giants” honouring the people who have made Val d'Or. She was made *Chevalier de l'Ordre du Québec* (2006). She has been Co-Chair of the ARUC-ODENA since 2009. National Aboriginal Achievement Award Public services category (2010). She is also recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal (2012). She will join two great Aboriginal women, Ms. Éléonore Tecumseh Sioui and Ms. Michèle Rouleau, as Member of the prestigious Order of Canada.

The RCAAQ advocates in favour of the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal citizens, while supporting the Native Friendship Centres in achieving their mission to improve the quality of life of urban Aboriginals, to promote the culture and to build bridges between peoples.

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Source:

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