

Volunteer Award

A Canada for all, where everyone participates and plays an active role

Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award

In 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, the Government of Canada announced the launch of the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award. This award was established to commemorate the work of Thérèse Casgrain and honour those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to volunteering.

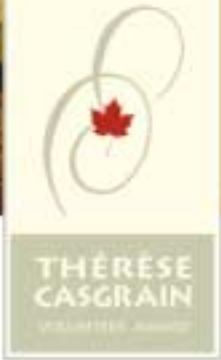
Thérèse Casgrain was an eminent Canadian whose actions continue to serve as an example to all. The award is presented annually to two Canadians, one man and one woman. It recognizes the voluntary contributions of individuals from communities across Canada whose pioneering spirit, social commitment and persistent endeavours have contributed significantly to the advancement of a social cause and the well-being of their fellow citizens.



In Memory of Thérèse Casgrain, 1896-1981

Thérèse Casgrain, a native of Montréal, was the force behind various social reforms promoting justice and equality. She was involved in provincial, national and international organizations and was one of the pioneers of the women's rights movement in Canada. As founder and later President of the Quebec League of Women's Rights, she helped Quebec women gain the right to vote in 1940 and was instrumental in making them the beneficiaries of family allowance cheques. All her life she fought for women's participation in government in Canada.

In the 1960s, Thérèse Casgrain participated in the World Disarmament Conference, where she was the only female Canadian delegate. She was appointed to the Senate in 1970 and became a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1974. Throughout her life she chose to defend the cause of disadvantaged members of society, to denounce social injustice and to lend a voice to those who had none. Thérèse Casgrain was an inspiring Canadian in every sense of the word.



Volunteer Award

The Award

The award consists of:

- a bronze medallion bearing the likeness of Thérèse Casgrain, a lapel pin and a certificate of recognition; and
- \$5,000 to be awarded to a registered Canadian voluntary organization designated by the recipient.

Choosing the Candidates

The National Selection Committee consists of:

- a chairperson;
- former award recipients;
- voluntary sector representatives from across Canada;
- members of the Thérèse F. Casgrain Foundation; and
- representatives of the Government of Canada.

The Committee will be seeking candidates who meet the following criteria:

- they are Canadian citizens;
- there is evidence that the spirit of volunteerism has played a significant role throughout their lifetime;
- their volunteer efforts have enabled fellow Canadians to participate in the workplace and/or their communities;
- they have demonstrated leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work in advancing a social cause; and
- they have created effective partnerships with the public, the voluntary sector, local communities and/or governments.

Nomination Procedures

A candidate for the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award may be sponsored by:

- (a) an organization; or
- (b) three individuals—a sponsor and two co-sponsors, none of whom are related to the candidate.

The application must include the following information:

- name, address and telephone number of the candidate;
- a Personal Release and Consent Form, signed by the candidate;
- names, addresses and telephone numbers of the sponsor and co-sponsors; and
- a detailed description of the candidate's accomplishments under each of the criteria, including relevant documents (e.g., publications, letters of support, awards, press clippings).

Candidates will not be considered posthumously.

This information must be submitted by **February 1** to:

Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award Secretariat
 Social Development Canada
 140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV, 5th Floor
 Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

Our Mission

Social Development Canada is committed to strengthening Canada's social foundations by supporting the well-being of individuals, families and communities and their participation through citizen-focused policies, programs and service.



CONTACT US

For more information on the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award, please visit www.sdc.gc.ca or call **1 866 468-4377**.

Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award Secretariat
 Social Development Canada
 140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV, 5th Floor
 Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9
 Fax: (819) 997-7000
 E-mail: theresecasgrain-info@sdsc-dsc.gc.ca

Guide to Nominations

What is volunteering?

Volunteering is a service offered by choice; it is not mandated or coerced. It contributes to the well-being of an individual or a community, pays no salary or wages, and has no financial benefit to the volunteers.

Who is eligible for the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award?

The Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award is open to all Canadian citizens, with the exception of members of the Thérèse F. Casgrain Foundation, elected officials of government while serving in office, past recipients of the award and employees of Social Development Canada.

Is it possible to re-nominate an individual from year to year?

Yes. However, past recipients of the award are not eligible.

Is it possible for a group of people to be eligible for the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award?

No. The award will be presented on an annual basis to one man and one woman.

How are nominations evaluated?

Nominations are evaluated by the National Selection Committee, which is an independent body. Evaluation is based solely on the contents of the nomination form and supporting documents.

How are award recipients selected?

The Minister of Social Development makes the final selection, based on the recommendations submitted by the National Selection Committee.

Is there any age requirement?

All nominations are welcome, regardless of age. However, recipients will need to have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to volunteering.

What should sponsors keep in mind when completing a nomination package?

Award recipients are selected based solely on merit. Each criterion should be responded to individually, in paragraph or point form. Supplemental documentation should be clear and well organized.

What kind of biographical information is necessary to describe a nominee?

A nomination package should clearly describe the volunteer services provided by the nominee with each organization, the innovation involved in the volunteer work and the nominee's motivation for volunteering. The amount of time the nominee has dedicated to each cause as a volunteer should be identified, with a brief description of the nominee's occupation while providing these services.

Is there a specific format for nominations?

Supporting documentation (including photographs and newspaper clippings) must be submitted on 8.5" x 11" sheets, typed, reproduced or clearly written in dark ink. Nominations must be submitted in their entirety and must not exceed 50 pages in length—only the first 50 pages will be reviewed. Additional enclosures such as cassettes, videotapes, diskettes and CDs will not be reviewed.

Will nomination forms and supporting documents be returned to sponsors?

No. All materials submitted become the property of the Government of Canada and are subject to the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*.

Do nominations need to be bilingual?

Nominations will be accepted in either French or English.

Do candidates have to be active volunteers when being considered for the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award?

No. However, their past voluntary contributions should reflect a lifetime of volunteer service.

Will I be advised on the outcome of my nomination?

All nominees and sponsors will be advised of the winning nominations.

Nomination Form

Candidate

Surname _____
Given Name(s) _____
Date of Birth _____ Gender _____
Present Occupation _____

Complete Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Sponsors

A candidate for the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award may be sponsored by an organization or three individuals—a sponsor and two co-sponsors not related to the candidate.

Organization _____
Complete Address _____

Telephone Number _____
Name of Contact Person _____

Signature _____

Individuals

1. Sponsor (Contact Person)

Surname _____
Given Name(s) _____
Complete Address _____

Telephone Number _____
Signature _____

2. Co-Sponsor

Surname _____
Given Name(s) _____
Complete Address _____

Telephone Number _____
Signature _____

3. Co-Sponsor

Surname _____
Given Name(s) _____
Complete Address _____

Telephone Number _____
Signature _____

Submit this form with supporting documents to:

Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award Secretariat
Social Development Canada
140 Promenade du Portage
Phase IV, 5th Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

Note: Supporting documentation must be submitted on 8.5" X 11" sheets. Nominations must be submitted in their entirety and must not exceed 50 pages. Additional enclosures such as cassettes, videotapes, diskettes and CDs will not be reviewed.

Please refer to the guide to nominations for more information.