

# The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



## Paul-Émile Cormier

Saint-Antoine, New Brunswick

For Paul-Émile Cormier, education is more than a job, it's his passion. He made a career in education as principal of École Camille-Vautour de Saint-Antoine for 30 years, and his passion extended beyond the bounds of his professional life.



It was in 1984 that his dedication to literacy really began. At that time, there were no training courses, no programs, and no teaching materials. The Mayor of Saint-Antoine, Roseline Maillet, explains: "Through his tireless and unrelenting efforts, Paul-Émile rolled up his sleeves and developed a night course in his community, Saint-Antoine, to help those who could not read or write." Since then, the literacy rate in that region has skyrocketed.

"With his drive, foresight and leadership, he succeeded in moving forward several important issues for literacy in New Brunswick," added Roger Doiron, former chair of the board of the Fédération d'alphabétisation du Nouveau Brunswick.

A journalist and columnist from 2000 to 2010, he penned over 700 articles on adult literacy in the French-language journal *L'Étoile*. He won the Peter Gzowski Literacy Award of Merit in 2004, becoming the first Francophone to receive this honour for his writing. He currently serves as chair of the Conseil d'alphabétisation de Kent-Sud and of the regional learning committee Apprentissage pour adultes Sud-Est, and is a board member of the Fédération d'alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Paul-Émile was part of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons and the New Brunswick Advisory Council on Seniors and served on the municipal council for the Village of Saint-Antoine. Throughout his life, he has worked in many different

spheres of activity, including minor and senior hockey, sport and cultural associations, the Caisse populaire, the Knights of Columbus, parent-teacher associations, and social committees within his parish.

***"With his drive, foresight and leadership, he succeeded in moving forward several important issues for literacy in New Brunswick."***

**Roger Doiron, former chair of the board of the Fédération d'alphabétisation du Nouveau Brunswick**

Paul-Émile Cormier is a very effective and straightforward communicator and has put his talent to use in serving his community.



The Caring Canadian Award was presented to Paul-Émile Cormier on April 17, 2012, at Rideau Hall. Sgt Ronald Duchesne 2012 © Rideau Hall