

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



Pierre Lafrance

Montréal, Quebec

It could almost be said that Pierre Lafrance found his voice through stuttering.

As someone who stuttered for a long time, M. Lafrance turned to the Association des Bègues du Canada (ABC) for help. With their assistance, he learned to control his speaking and to communicate more fluently—skills he has taken joy in passing on to others.

Since 1985, M. Lafrance has shown his gratitude by volunteering for ABC. During that time, he has served as both its president and treasurer, rapidly becoming the go-to person for information and advice.

His list of achievements is long. He has contributed to many ABC publications, including a monthly newsletter, and maintained a collection of technical papers, novels, abstracts and personal stories, which he distributes to school boards, hospitals and schools throughout Canada. Every year, he helps with the annual meetings and sets up information kiosks at trade shows and conferences. He takes an active role in helping members speak more fluently, developing contacts with speech therapists and organizing social activities where members can improve their skills with others.

In 1999, M. Lafrance was one of the principal organizers of the Canadian Stuttering Association Conference, which was held in Montréal. Attracting over 300 people from round the world, the conference was an outstanding success.

"Pierre's determination to work efficiently and not give in to adversity makes him an exceptional volunteer," says Rose Lamy, who recommended him for the award. "He possesses the qualities you find in a natural leader, someone who never hesitates to rise to a challenge and who provides inspiration to those around him."



"My first contact with Pierre was in 1986, during a meeting at ABC," recalls current President Richard Martineau. "Our meetings were meant to help people who stuttered improve their speaking abilities. Pierre quickly became a valuable resource, responding with enthusiasm to hundreds of phone calls and letters, especially from parents of children who stuttered. When we celebrated his 25th anniversary, more than a hundred people showed

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Rose Lamy, nominator

up to congratulate him. According to those who have worked with him, Pierre has helped over a thousand people to bloom."



The Caring Canadian Award was presented to Pierre Lafrance on April 17, 2012, at Rideau Hall. Sgt Ronald Duchesne 2012 © Rideau Hall