



### Shining a light on local peace-makers

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Celebrated each year on September 21, the International Day of Peace is the perfect time to reflect on what we can do every day to create a climate of equality, inclusion, empathy, safety and respect.

For thirty years now, the YMCA Peace Medals have honoured individuals and groups whose work for peace often goes unnoticed. Their initiatives to help people in need not only inspire us to think about peace, they demonstrate how we can take individual and collective action to achieve it. Every one of us can make a difference by following their examples. Our goal is to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of these women and men, and to highlight their importance as role models for our youth.

This year, along with our Honorary Laureate, Maestro Kent Nagano from the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, we also have Laurent Champagne, the YWCA Montreal's Youth Services, Destination Centre-Ville, which promotes harmonious living and social reintegration, the creators of Radio-Dodo, and the creators of La Balade pour la Paix, a popular exhibition that conveys a message of peace and tolerance for Montréal's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In the last 30 years, more than 100 peacemakers across Québec have received a YMCA Peace Medal. This tradition continues because, as the news reminds us every day, people, groups and communities are still suffering as conflicts and social injustice overshadow their daily lives. By honouring our laureates' contribution to peace, the YMCA hopes they will capture Québec's attention, because, like the YMCA, they are building more harmonious and inclusive communities. The amplification of these extraordinary actions within our own community will help us build, together, a better future.