

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winners of the Everyday Political Citizen contest put a positive face on politics

Non-partisan think tank Samara and Canadian leaders name two Everyday Political Citizens of the year

Monday, Feb 3rd 2014 – Toronto, ON – At a time when political scandals have led many Canadians to question whether positive political role models still exist at any level of government, non-partisan think tank Samara is proud to announce the winner of their Everyday Political Citizen contest, which celebrates regular people changing the way politics is done.

Today [Samara's jury](#), which includes Canadian leaders Rick Mercer, Preston Manning and Kathleen Monk, named **Mark Coffin from Halifax and Ali Chatur from Toronto as the Everyday Political Citizens of 2013.**

About the winners:

Mark Coffin is the founder of the Springtide Collective, a group working to improve the state of democracy in Nova Scotia by educating Nova Scotians of all ages about politics. Celebrity judge Rick Mercer shortlisted Mark saying "I've said for years that if young people show up to vote, we'll see some very exciting changes in this country. Mark is putting in the hard work necessary to make that happen."

Ali Chatur, a high-school student who was nominated by his MP, Craig Scott, was chosen as Samara's youth winner to show the important work being done by those still too young to vote. "Ali is truly a remarkable young man, who is already a community leader and who will have a great deal to contribute to Canadian society in the years ahead," said Scott.

Close runners-up **Idil Burale, Sam Livingstone and Justice Betty** were also recognized by the jury.

All of the [Everyday Political Citizen](#) finalists are inspiring for their dedication to democratic participation and their work in Canadian politics.

"Democracy is, ultimately, about people," said Max Cameron, juror and Director of the University of British Columbia's Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions. "We need good people in politics. By recognizing some of the extraordinary citizens we have in this country, I hope we can inspire more people to take up the challenge of participating in the political process."

[Read more about the winners and runners-up and why the judges chose them.](#)

About Samara

Samara is a charity dedicated to improving political participation in Canada. Through research and educational programs, Samara reconnects citizens to politics.

We are always available to comment on our areas of research, which include citizen participation and voting behaviour, political leadership and Members of Parliament, and political parties. Our research and programming can be found at www.samaracanada.com , or via Twitter [@SamaraCda](https://twitter.com/SamaraCda).

For interviews with the winners, jurors or Alison Loat, and for more information

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