

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prominent Canadians name the top Political Citizens of 2013

Non-partisan think tank Samara and political leaders recognize thirteen 'Everyday Political Citizens'

Tuesday, January 21st 2014 – TORONTO, ON – 2013 was one of scandal and cynicism in Canadian politics. For a better start to 2014, 13 exceptional Canadians are being recognized today as 'Everyday Political Citizens' for their dedication to democratic participation.

Samara, a non-partisan think tank working to improve political participation, developed the program, and together with Canadian leaders across the political spectrum, is proud to recognize Canadians committed to changing the face of politics.

Fourteen judges from across the country, including Preston Manning, Kathleen Monk and Rick Mercer, nominated a shortlist for the Everyday Political Citizen contest. On **February 3rd** they will select two top Everyday Political Citizens of 2013 (one adult and one under-18 winner.)

"When we think of politics we usually think of those who hold elected office, but there are many ways Canadians contribute," said Michael MacMillan, Samara co-founder and a contest juror. "From campaigning to make busy streets safer, to legalizing gay marriage, the daily efforts of everyday political citizens shape our country. But we never take the time to recognize or thank them. I'm delighted to do that today."

To read about the contributions of these '[Everyday Political Citizens](#)' click on their nomination below.

Max Cameron chose [Idil Burale](#) (Toronto, ON)
Miriam Fahmy chose [Edith Perry](#) (Cardigan, PEI)
Mark Heyck chose [Sam Livingstone](#) (Fort McMurray, AB)
Miriam Lapp chose [Trina Isakson](#) (Vancouver, BC)
Hugh MacKinnon chose [Victor Beausoleil](#) (Scarborough, ON)
Michael MacMillan chose [Joanne Macrae](#) (Halifax, NS)
Preston Manning chose [Patrick Beatty](#) (Calgary, AB)
Akosua Matthews chose [Japreet Lehal](#) (Surrey, BC)
Rick Mercer and Danny Graham chose [Mark Coffin](#) (Halifax, NS)
Kathleen Monk chose [Leesee Papatsie](#) (Iqaluit, NU)
Chima Nkemdirim chose [Chris Ortenburger](#) (Malpeque, PEI)
Deon Ramgoolam chose [Darlene Okemaysim-Sicotte](#) (Saskatoon, SK)
Shauna Sylvester chose [Rosanne Orcutt](#) (Sarnia, ON)

The winner will be announced **February 3rd, 2014**. Let us know if you would like us to tell you about the winner in advance.

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.

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