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EMBARGOED UNTIL 7:00pm EST, DECEMBER 3rd, 2014

High school teacher Tim Halman from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia named Everyday Political Citizen of the Year

Non-partisan charity Samara Canada and community leaders recognize "Everyday Political Citizens"

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2014—TORONTO, ON—Samara Canada, the country's most trusted, non-partisan champion of increased civic engagement, is thrilled to announce today the **2014 Everyday Political Citizen** adult and youth winners.

After receiving over 350 submissions, seventeen judges from across the country, including CBC personality Rick Mercer, NHL defenseman Grant Clitsome, Edmonton Councillor Michael Walters and former mayor of Iqaluit Madeleine Redfern, selected a shortlist from the nominations collected coast to coast to coast. From that shortlist, the jury has chosen high-school political science teacher from **Dartmouth, NS**, **Tim Halman** as this year's **Everyday Political Citizen of the Year** and eleven-year-old **Nessa Deans** from **Edmonton, AB,** as the **Youth Everyday Political Citizen of the Year**.

The winners and nominees were celebrated at announcement events in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, and Halifax this evening.

From Toronto, Samara co-founder and Everyday Political Citizen juror **Michael MacMillan** said, "We are delighted to be able to name and celebrate Tim Halman and Nessa Deans today – they are bright lights among an amazingly inspirational group of nominees this year. While Canada continues to rank in the bottom twentieth percentile in western democracies in voter turnout, people like Tim Halman and young Nessa Deans inspire us to believe that we can and will do better."

Winner Tim Halman is a high school political science teacher who was nominated by MP Robert Chisholm. Chisholm was impressed by Halman's leadership in inspiring young Canadians to take an interest in democracy.

2013 Everyday Political Citizen winner and 2014 juror Mark Coffin, also from Nova Scotia, said of Halman, "Teachers have an opportunity to inspire students about the power and potential of democracy if they choose to, and it's clear that Tim chooses to put the extra thought and effort into making his political science class an opportunity for inspiration."

From an announcement event in Dartmouth, winner Tim Halman said, "A liberal democracy cannot afford an uninformed citizenry. As civics and social science teachers, we are given the responsibility of ensuring that youth are knowledgeable about civics and the mechanics of government. It is an honour and privilege to receive this award from Samara Canada, an organization that works diligently to connect our youth with Canada's political culture and system of government. I am grateful for organizations like Samara because they help support civics teachers throughout Canada build a better tomorrow by engaging youth in politics."

2014 youth winner Nessa Deans is not your average grade six student. At only eleven years of age, Nessa has volunteered countless hours to her community and local political campaigns. Nessa loves attending City Council meetings, wants to vacation in Ottawa to visit the Parliament buildings, and keeps a poster of all the Canadian Prime Ministers in her room. She aspires to join the page program in the House of Commons or the Encounters with Canada program, and is the model of a politically engaged young person.

Runners up this year are Patti Melanson, a registered nurse from Halifax, NS, Anubha Momim, a community blogger from Iqaluit, NU, and Benoît Langevin a youth outreach program director from Montreal, QC. Youth runners up this year are Tia Carey of Guelph, ON and Wes Prankard of Niagara Falls, ON.

The Everyday Political Citizen Program was launched in 2013. Samara, a non-partisan charity dedicated to reconnecting citizens to politics, developed the Everyday Political Citizen program to celebrate the unsung heroes of Canadian democracy.

To read about the contributions of the 2014 Everyday Political Citizen winners and runners-up, click on their nomination below.

2014 Everyday Political Citizens

Winner—Adult Category

[Tim Halman](#) **(Dartmouth, NS)**

Runners up—Adult Category

Benoît Langevin (Montréal, QC)
Patti Melanson (Halifax, NS)
Anubha Momin (Iqaluit, NU)

Winner—Youth Category

Nessa Deans (Edmonton, Alberta)

Runners up—Youth Category

Tia Carey (Guelph, Ontario)
Wes Prankard (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

Interviews are available with the winners and runners-up, some jury members, and Samara Directors.

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"I've ranted a lot about youth voter turnout and garnered some attention just because I lead a public life. There are so many people who keep our democracy moving in private and never get recognized. How and why someone gets involved shouldn't be a state secret—it should be a state celebration."—**Rick Mercer, Juror**

All nominations can be seen on this interactive map of the country:
http://www.samaracanada.com/fun-stuff/everyday-political-citizen-map

About Samara Canada

Samara Canada is dedicated to reconnecting citizens to politics. Established as a charity in 2009, we have become Canada's most trusted, non-partisan champion of increased civic engagement and a more positive public life.

Samara Canada's research and educational programming shines new light on Canada's democratic system and encourages greater political participation across the country, to build better politics, and a better Canada, for everyone.

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 outreach programming can be found at www.samaracanada.com, or via Twitter @SamaraCda.