

AJOI co-founder recognized for civic engagement

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The co-founder of Action jeunesse de l'Ouest-de-l'Île (AJOI) just missed out on claiming the Everyday Political Citizen (EPC) award for civic engagement Dec. 3 in Toronto.

Benoit Langevin won the second place national award.

“I am very pleased to have won this national award,” the Pierrefonds resident told the Chronicle. “I hope this award will encourage youth I work for to vote and get involved in our imperfect but functional political system.”

Langevin, whose non-profit organization helps local at-risk youth, was nominated by NDP MP for Pierrefonds-Dollard Lyane Blanchette-Lamothe for his work in promoting civic engagement in the West Island.

“He cofounded an organization that allowed him to bring real change vis-a-vis a social problem that is close to his heart. He managed to make AJOI bigger in an impressive manner and he works closely in collaboration with actors in the community,” Blanchette-Lamothe said in an email to the Chronicle.

A panel of 17 judges selected the winners and runners-up for both the junior and senior categories of the EPC Award

According to Samara, the non-partisan charity which established the EPC award, an everyday political person is a person “who takes the time to get a bit political and make positive change in their communities.”

Langevin finished second to political science high school teacher Tim Halman of Dartmouth, N.S., who won the award in the senior category.

“Youth civic engagement is important. Young people bring lots of energy and creativity needed to make a difference in our society. But I am also strong believer <http://www.westislandchronicle.com/Community/2014-12-15/article-3977185/AJOI-co-founder-recognized-for-civic-engagement/1>

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that there is no age to start being socially engaged. And there is no age to be able to make a difference in our society,” Blanchette-Lamothe said.

For a complete list of winners and runners-up, visit www.samaracanada.com.

For more information on AJOI’s outreach work with the West Island’s at-risk youth, visit ajoi.info.