



## Tribute to Good Citizenship - Heroic Acts


» We are all potential heroes and heroines. Courageous individuals come from all walks of life and all share a deep-seated humanity.




To recognize the courage and exemplary conduct of individuals who come to the assistance of people whose lives are in danger, the Québec government adopted the Act to promote good citizenship on December 19, 1977.

- [Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms](#)
- [An Act to promote good citizenship](#)
- [Background](#)
- [The Good Samaritan rule](#)
- [Who may be recommended](#)
- [How to recommend a candidate](#)
- [Comité sur le civisme](#)
- [Medals and honourable citations](#)
- [Public tribute](#)
- [Deadline](#)
- [For more information](#)

### » Québec charter of human rights and freedoms


Under section 2 of the [Charter of human rights and freedoms](#) , "Every human being whose life is in peril has a right to assistance. Every person must come to the aid of anyone whose life is in peril [...] unless it involves danger to himself [...]." To provide assistance to a person whose life is in danger is a civic duty. However, the Charter does not require citizens to do so at the risk of their own life.

### » The Good Samaritan rule

People occasionally hesitate to help others for fear of aggravating an injured person's condition and exposing themselves to a damage suit. Under a special provision in the Civil Code of Québec ([Book Five](#) , art. 1471), anyone who in good faith helps a person in danger is protected from legal proceedings. An individual may not be found liable for injury caused while assisting a person in danger unless the injury is a result of intentional or gross fault.

- > Minister
- > Department
- > Publications
- > Forms
- > Programs and services
- > Related links
- > Courts
- > Contact us
- > About this site

## »» **An Act to promote good citizenship**

When an intervention involves significant danger to the rescuer, it may, under the [Act to promote good citizenship](#) , be recognized as an exceptional act of good citizenship and earn the rescuer a decoration or distinction from the Québec government. The act must have been performed in hazardous or difficult circumstances that put the rescuer's life in danger.

The Act also makes provision to compensate individuals who sustain bodily injury or property damage while performing an act of good citizenship.

## »» **Background**

The adoption of the Act to promote good citizenship was a direct consequence of an act of courage performed in 1973 when to avoid a tragedy, a Montréal taxi driver jumped from his taxi and grabbed the wheel of a runaway tractor semi-trailer on Saint-Urbain Street in Montréal. The driver was badly injured as a result of his courageous action.

## »» **Can anyone be nominated for a good citizenship award?**

You may recommend anyone who, in dangerous or difficult circumstances, sometimes at the risk of his or her life, performed an act of good citizenship to help a person whose life was in danger.

## »» **How to nominate a person**

To nominate a person, simply complete [the form](#) and send it to the secretariat of the Comité sur le civisme (Committee on Good Citizenship).

Secretariat of the Comité sur le civisme  
Ministère de la Justice  
Direction des communications  
1200, route de l'Église  
Québec (Québec) G1V 4M1

A person may not nominate himself or herself for recognition.

## »» **Deadline**

Nominations must reach the secretariat of the Committee no later than May 1 of the current year and must concern courageous deeds performed between January 1 and December 31 of the preceding year.

## »» **Comité sur le civisme**

Composed of five members appointed by the Québec government, the [Committee](#) advises the Minister of Justice on the awarding of medals and honourable citations for good citizenship.

## » Medals and honourable citations

The **médaille du civisme** (medal for good citizenship), accompanied by a gold lapel pin, may be awarded by the government to a person who performed an act of good citizenship in dangerous circumstances. Cast in bronze and engraved with the recipient's name, the medal symbolizes a person risking his life to save the life of another.



The term “*dangerous circumstances*” refers to circumstances in which the rescuer risks his or her life to save another.



The **mention d'honneur du civisme** (honourable citation for good citizenship), accompanied by a silver lapel pin, may be awarded by the government to an individual who performed an act of courage or dedication in difficult circumstances. The honourable citation is a parchment certificate bearing the recipient's name.

The term “*difficult circumstances*” refers to circumstances in which the rescuer faces significant danger.

The lapel pin is a miniature replica of the medal.

## » Public tribute

Public tribute is paid annually to recipients at an official ceremony presided over by the Minister of Justice of Québec.




## » For more information

[Good Citizenship Nomination Form](#)

[Award Recipients](#)

[Committee on Good Citizenship](#) (Comité sur le civisme)

Legislation relating to good citizenship

- [Charter of human rights and freedoms](#)  (s. 2)
- [Book Five of the Civil Code of Québec](#)  (art. 1471)
- [An Act to promote good citizenship](#) 

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For additional information, please [contact us](#).

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- 
- [History](#) • [Organization](#) • [Courthouses](#) • [Administrative documents](#) • [Current issues](#) •
  - [Speeches and Statements](#) • [Laws and Regulations](#) • [The Prix de la Justice](#) •
  - [Tribute to Good Citizenship](#) •

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## Tribute to Good Citizenship - Heroic Acts

### » Good Citizenship Nomination Form



You may recommend for official recognition anyone who, under dangerous or difficult circumstances, sometimes at the risk of his or her life, performed an act of good citizenship aimed at helping a person whose life was in danger.

N.B. If necessary, this personal information will be given to an investigator assigned by the Ministère de la Justice.

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- > Minister
- > Department
- > Publications
- > Forms
- > Programs and services
- > Related links
- > Courts
- > Contact us
- > About this site



## Tribute to Good Citizenship

### » Committee on Good Citizenship (Comité sur le civisme)

Composed of five members appointed by the Québec government, the Comité sur le civisme advises the Minister of Justice on the awarding of medals and honourable citations for good citizenship.

- [2006 Committee](#)
- [2005 Committee](#)
- [2003 Committee](#)
- [2002 Committee](#)
- [2001 Committee](#)
- [2000 Committee](#)

### » 2006 Committee

In 2004, the Committee received 103 nominations. The members recommended awarding 11 medals and 14 honourable citations.

The Committee members are:

- Nicole Blouin  
Chair of the Comité sur le civisme and Chair of NB Communications-relations publiques inc.  
Lecturer at Université Laval
- Pablo Altamirano  
Director, groupe-conseil Agir interculturel
- Jean-Marie de Koninck  
Professor of Mathematics at Université Laval and founding President of Operation Red Nose
- Victor C. Goldbloom, physician  
Chair of the Board of directors of the Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et de services sociaux de Montréal

### » 2005 Committee

In 2003, the Committee received more than 60 nominations. The members recommended awarding 6 medals and 4 honourable citations.

The Committee members are:

- Nicole Blouin  
Chair of the Comité sur le civisme and Chair of NB Communications-relations publiques inc.  
Lecturer at Université Laval
- Pablo Altamirano  
Director, groupe-conseil Agir interculturel
- Victor C. Goldbloom, physician  
Chair of the Board of directors of the Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et de services sociaux de Montréal



- > Minister
- > Department
- > Publications
- > Forms
- > Programs and services
- > Related links
- > Courts
- > Contact us
- > About this site

## » 2003 Committee

In 2002, the Committee received approximately one hundred nominations. The members recommended awarding 7 medals and 16 honourable citations.

The Committee members are:

- Nicole Blouin  
Chair of the Comité sur le civisme and Chair of NB Communications-relations publiques inc.  
Lecturer at Université Laval
- Pablo Altamirano  
Director, Altacom, intercultural relations consultants
- James Lee Hopkins  
Management consultant  
General Director of St. John Ambulance from 1999 to March 2001

## » 2002 Committee

In 2001, the Committee received approximately one hundred nominations. The members recommended awarding 9 medals and 18 honourable citations.

The Committee members were:

- Nicole Blouin  
Chair of the Comité sur le civisme and Chair of NB Communications-relations publiques inc.  
Lecturer at Université Laval  
Chair of the Association Québec-France, Québec City region
- Pablo Altamirano  
Director, Altacom, intercultural relations consultants
- James Lee Hopkins  
Management consultant  
General Director of St. John Ambulance from 1999 to March 2001
- Richard Renaud  
Director, Inspection service of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique  
Co-chair of the 2005 World Police and Fire Games in Québec City  
President of the Caisse d'économie Desjardins du personnel municipal (Québec)

## » 2001 Committee

In 2000, the Committee received approximately one hundred nominations. The members recommended awarding 3 medals and 21 honourable citations.

The Committee members were:

- Nicole Blouin  
Chair of the Comité sur le civisme and Chair of a public relations firm  
Lecturer at Université Laval  
Chair of the Association Québec-France, Québec City region
- Pablo Altamirano  
General Director, Comité d'adaptation de la main-d'oeuvre pour personnes immigrantes (CAMO)
- James Lee Hopkins  
Management consultant  
General Director of St. John Ambulance from 1999 to March 2001
- Isabelle Jean  
General Director, Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi, Comté de Johnson  
Chair, Commission sur le développement de la main-d'oeuvre et de la formation professionnelle, CRD Estrie
- Richard Renaud  
Director, Inspection service of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique

## » 2000 Committee

In 1999, the Committee received 123 nominations. The members recommended awarding 9 medals and 29 honourable citations.

The Committee members were:

- Nicole Blouin  
Chair of the Comité sur le civisme and Chair of NB Communications-relations publiques inc.
- Pablo Altamirano  
General Director, Comité d'adaptation de la main-d'oeuvre pour personnes immigrantes (CAMO)
- James Lee Hopkins  
General Director of St. John Ambulance
- Isabelle Jean  
General Director, Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi, Comté de Johnson
- Richard Renaud  
Director, Inspection service of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique

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### For more information

[Tribute to Good Citizenship](#)

[Good Citizenship Nomination Form](#)

[Award Recipients](#)



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- 
- [History](#) • [Organization](#) • [Courthouses](#) • [Administrative documents](#) • [Current issues](#) •  
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## General Information

---

- > [Minister](#)
- > [Department](#)
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» Ministère de la Justice du Québec  
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Québec (Québec) G1V 4M1

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Toll free: 1 866 536-5140  
Email: [communications.justice@justice.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:communications.justice@justice.gouv.qc.ca)

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**Please note:** The personnel at the Service de renseignements of the Ministère de la Justice can help you understand the general rules for applying Québec legislation. They cannot, however, interpret these rules to respond to a specific case or situation.

When contacting us by mail or e-mail, please indicate your address and telephone number so that we can contact you when necessary.

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