

# ***The Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding***

*Terms of reference for the community advisory working group  
responsible to make recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor  
(as of March 15, 2015)*

## **1. THE NAME OF THE AWARD:**

- 1.1. *The Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding.*

## **2. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

- 2.1. Early in January of each year, in a ceremony at Government House, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba may confer *The Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding* (the "Award"), upon a worthy recipient, at the recommendation of a community advisory committee ("Award Committee");
- 2.2. Each year, under the patronage of the Lieutenant Governor, the Award normally recognizes the contributions of an individual member of Manitoba's various religious communities toward greater inter-faith understanding of, and harmony among, the religious communities in the Province, and beyond;
- 2.3. The recipient's contributions may be offered through any realm of endeavour – the arts, community organization or service, cultural engagement, education, media;
- 2.4. The Award is intended to be conferred across the broadest religious spectrum possible, with no restrictions of age, gender, or personal trait;
- 2.5. This Award shall be regarded as the highest tribute that can be paid to residents of Manitoba by the Vice-Regal office for valuable and distinguished service to the community through engendering and promoting inter-religious understanding.

### 3. HISTORY:

#### 3.1.

#### **A Brief History of The Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter Religious Understanding**

The Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter Religious Understanding, at least until its presentation in January of 2015, remains unique in the world.

First officially acknowledged by the striking and presentation of a medal and an accompanying citation to composer Zane Zalis on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, by His Honour Phillip Lee, the vision of this award first emerged in the autumn of 2006.

During the Parliament of the World's Religions Five Year Retrospective of "9/11" in September of 2006, in Montréal, Anthony Mansour, *Directeur du Centre Canadien d'oecuménisme (CCE)*, approached Dr. James Christie, then Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Winnipeg, with an idea for promoting Inter Faith Dialogue.

M. Mansour mooted first, the possibility of expanding a three city tour – Montréal, Ottawa, and Toronto, by Professore Alberto Melloni, of the University of Bologna, to include Winnipeg. Prof. Melloni was to visit Canada at the behest of the Turkish Government to promote his groundbreaking edition of *The Holocaust Journals of John XXIII*, who, as papal Nuncio in Turkey during WWII, undertook the rescue of Eastern European Jews from the Nazis, and arranged for them to be smuggled into the British Protectorate of Palestine.

M. Mansour believed this provided an opportunity to honour both the late Pontiff and, in each city, a Jew, a Christian and a Muslim who had contributed to Inter Religious understanding over many years.

The CCE would prepare and award plaques accordingly.

Dr. Christie enthusiastically endorsed the concept, but pushed it a step further.

He approached the Honourable John Harvard, then Lt. Governor of Manitoba, to present the plaques as the Queen's Representative.

He then convened an *ad hoc* inter faith advisory group to propose names for that first award.

In October 2007, CCE plaques were presented by Mr. Harvard to Sandy Hyman, of the Jewish community; to Dr. Asad Kahn, a Manitoba Muslim; and to Ms. Frieda Lalbihari, a Roman Catholic.

The concept was so well received that the *ad hoc* committee constituted itself as the *Community Advisory Committee for the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter Religious Understanding*, a designation meticulously crafted with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Two years of planning and negotiation culminated in the 2011 inaugural presentation of the newly minted award to Mr. Zane Zalis, composer and librettist of *I Believe*, an *oratorio* inspired by the *Shoa*. Mr. Zalis was born into the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and is now a communicant in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Winnipeg. In 2012, the Lt. Governor took the unusual step of acknowledging two recipients, Mae Louise Campbell, a Métis-Cree Elder, and Pundit Atish Muniar, a Hindu Priest. These three received concurrent award plaques from the CCE.

In 2013, the award was presented to Dr. Redwan Moqbel, an immunology researcher and a representative of the Baha'i community who has provided leadership in promoting peaceful relations and spiritual insight among many different traditions. The Lt. Governor, in 2014, recognized the Honourable Dr. Lloyd Axworthy for promoting inter-religious understanding in ways well beyond the usual expectations of a University President. In 2015 Rabbi Neal and Mrs. Carol Rose were jointly honoured for their years of service together. The Committee acknowledges with gratitude the vision – and courage – of their Honours John Harvard and Phillip Lee; Phyllis Fraser of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for Manitoba; and of Anthony Mansour for the original inspiration.

#### **4. THE CRITERIA TO RECEIVE THE AWARD:**

##### Recipients of the Award:

- 4.1. will have been residents in Manitoba during the time of their contribution;
- 4.2. will have been active in their own faith community during their time of contribution;
- 4.3. will have actively gone beyond the expectation of their position (voluntary or professional) to engage their own community and encourage others in inter-faith activity that promotes human harmony and understanding of one another's religious perspectives;
- 4.4. will have demonstrated a significant length of service to the cause of inter-religious understanding;
- 4.5. will have a demonstrated breadth of influence beyond their own traditions;
- 4.6. will have made a contribution which is worthy of the description "with distinction;"
- 4.7. will normally be individuals;
- 4.8. will normally be living, but posthumous Awards may be considered (normally at the first or second presentation of the Award after the recipient's death). Posthumous Awards are not to be pursued for lack of a living recipient;
- 4.9. The number of recipients to be recommended for the Award each year shall be one. The number shall be limited so as to preserve the distinction of the Award; the Committee may choose to recommend that the Award not be given in a particular year;
- 4.10. Admission to the Award shall not be granted simply because a person holds, or has held, a certain position or office, or is simply fulfilling the terms of one's position. Preference will be given to those whose contribution is given as an unpaid volunteer.

#### **5. THE EMBLEMS OF THE AWARD:**

- 5.1. A medal is struck upon the authority of the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba, and is presented at Government House, or other appropriate venue, by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 5.2. A certificate suitable for display detailing the Award will be presented by the Lieutenant Governor, to the recipient;
- 5.3. and, a plaque suitable for display, recognizing the contribution of the recipient may be given concurrently to the recipient at the discretion of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism;
- 5.4. The names of each year's Award recipient(s) shall be
  - 5.4.1. noted on such electronic platforms as deemed suitable by the Committee and Lieutenant Governor (e.g. Lieutenant Governor's web site).

**6. THE AWARD COMMITTEE:**

- 6.1. Shall be persons in the Manitoba community passionate about the advancement of inter-religious understanding, relationships, and harmony;
- 6.2. While the Committee does not need to reflect a proportional sampling of the Province's religious variations, it should seek to be composed of persons who severally are active in diverse religious traditions (in other words: the nomination process needs to be as public and inclusive as possible; the Award Committee, as a working group, must be smaller to be effective and efficient);
- 6.3. These Committee participants need not be official representatives of their traditions in any formal sense; however, the election, appointment, endorsement, and passionate participation of such representatives is welcome, enhances the distinction of the Award, and further encourages inter-religious understanding;
- 6.4. Previous recipients of the Award shall be considered an *ex officio* member of the Committee until the next Award is presented.

**7. THE COMMITTEE CONVENER:**

- 7.1. Shall be a widely-recognized leader in inter-faith activity;
- 7.2. Shall ensure the selection of suitable Award Committee members for the next presentation;
- 7.3. Shall be selected by the previous year's Award Committee.

**CONFIDENTIAL NOMINATION FORM FOR**

**The Manitoba Lieutenant Governor’s Award for the  
Advancement of Inter Religious Understanding**

*The accuracy, clarity and brevity of nominations will assist the Award Committee to consider this nominee.  
The deadline for “intent to nominate” emails is July 15 and for completed nominations is August 15.*

Nominee’s Complete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

**Involvement in Inter-Religious Work**  
(Include Dates From \_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_ Position held / Activity \_\_\_\_\_)

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**Please also complete other side of form.**

Related volunteer positions/activities (title, function, years) in other organizations:

Personal profile

(please provide additional biographical information, including profession and special interests)

Other comments about nominee:

**All nominations should be kept strictly confidential, out of respect to the nominees.**

**Only the successful nominee and nominator will be contacted by the Award Committee (by November).**

**The Award Ceremony is in early January.**

**A maximum of one nominee per year will be recognized by the Lieutenant Governor.**

**All nominations that conform to the terms of reference and are successfully vetted by the committee will be retained by the committee for future consideration for a total of three years, after which time the nomination would need to be resubmitted to be considered.**

Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*I confirm the information above is correct, and agree to the nomination, to accept the Lieutenant Governor's Award should it be offered to me, to attend the Award Ceremony, and to speak briefly (about 5 minutes) about my efforts for inter-religious understanding at that Ceremony.*

Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more detail about this Award, visit the Lieutenant Governor's website: ..... <http://www.manitobalg.ca/>

For more details about *Centre Canadien d'oecuménisme* visit..... <http://www.oikoumene.ca/>

Send "intent to nominate" email and completed forms to ..... [gordon.taylor@ucim.org](mailto:gordon.taylor@ucim.org); or to [j.christie@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.christie@uwinnipeg.ca)

Or mail to ..... **Lt. Gov. Award Committee, c/o 1111 Dakota Street, Winnipeg, MB, R2N 3T7**

Inquiries may be made to Dr. Gordon Taylor..... **204-256-7002**