



The Ordre national du Québec: honouring some outstanding people



ORDRE
NATIONAL
DU QUÉBEC
HONNEUR AU PEUPLE
DU QUÉBEC

“HONOUR TO THE PEOPLE OF QUÉBEC”

Before 1984, there was no way to honour exceptional individuals whose achievements, values and ideals had left a mark on the history of Québec and helped establish its renown.

To remedy the situation, the National Assembly unanimously passed the *Act respecting the Ordre national du Québec* on June 20, 1984.

The Order's motto, “Honour to the People of Québec”, expresses the essential meaning of the distinction, awarded to leading figures in Québec or abroad who have served the interests of the French-speaking world.

THREE INSIGNIA BASED ON QUÉBEC'S HERALDIC EMBLEMS

Each year since 1985, the Premier of Québec has conferred the prestigious titles of Knight, Officer or Grand Officer of the Order on people who have distinguished themselves in their respective field of endeavour.

The insignia for the three degrees are based on the heraldic emblems of Québec's flag: the fleur-de-lis and the colours sky blue and white. They were designed by Madeleine Dansereau, who co-founded the École de joaillerie et de métaux d'art de Montréal and was Québec's first woman jeweller.



Picture: Ordre national du Québec

The insignia correspond to the Order's three degrees:

- **GRAND OFFICER:** awarded to a person whose outstanding work has been completed;
- **OFFICER:** awarded to a person whose activity of international scope is nearing completion;
- **KNIGHT:** awarded to a person whose exemplary activity is in progress.

For each degree, the person receives the insignia in three or four different forms: a full-size version, a miniature replica, a lapel pin or a bar (for award winners who wear uniform).

Since 2013, the insignia for a Grand Officer, Officer and Knight have been worn suspended from a ribbon around the neck, by both men and women.

OVERVIEW OF THE ORDER

The Ordre national du Québec has almost 1,100 members, including 73 foreign dignitaries. Women make up almost 30% of the Order.

The people who have received one of the three distinctions include Rose Ouellette (Knight, 1990), Guy Lafleur (Knight, 2005), Dr. Gilles Julien (Officer, 2011) and Louise Arbour (Grand Officer, 2009).



Picture : Famous Studio (Montréal),
BAnQ Vieux-Montréal, P833,S1,D1214.

Performer Rose “La Poutine”
Ouellette, 1903-1996.



Picture : Postes Canada

A postage stamp depicting Guy Lafleur,
issued in 2016 to mark the World Cup
of Hockey.



Picture : Mathieu Deshayes Photographe

A physician, clinician and researcher,
Dr. Gilles Julien created a unique model
for social pediatrics in the community.