



News Release

Corinne Gallant Receives Human Rights Award

15 September 2014



Photo 1: Left to right: Lt.-Gov. Graydon Nicholas, Corrine Gallant and Randy Dickinson, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.



Photo 2: Corinne Gallant, C.M.

FREDERICTON –Lt.-Gov. Graydon Nicholas presented the 2014 New Brunswick Human Rights Award to an eminent feminist from Moncton in a ceremony held at Government House in Fredericton today.

“Corinne Gallant has for decades done exceptional work advocating for women, and I am delighted that the Human Rights Commission is recognizing her dedication, leadership and achievements,” said Randy Dickinson, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission. “I am particularly pleased because the work of feminists has too often gone unrecognized.”

Born in Moncton in 1922, Ms. Gallant was a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for 26 years, before becoming a lay person in 1970.

One of the first Acadian women to earn a doctorate, she had a lengthy career as a professor of Philosophy at the Université de Moncton. It is in this capacity that she launched its first course on feminism, which she led until her retirement in 1994. Ms. Gallant was also the author of a book on feminist philosophy (*La philosophie... au féminin*, Éditions d'Acadie, Moncton, 1984) that was widely used in French language institutions. She was also a president of the first national organization of feminist researchers, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW).

In addition, Ms. Gallant played a key role in the establishment of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and helped establish a shelter for battered women in Moncton. She also worked for Acadian rights, particularly French as an official language, in addition to joining, in person and through her journalistic writings, the struggles of various major causes in the fields of art/the *Escaouette* theatre and the environment/the Petitcodiac River.

Ms. Gallant has several awards to her credit, most notably the Order of Canada in 1989, the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case in 2012, and attaining the rank of full professor at the Université de Moncton.

Simone LeBlanc-Rainville has published a 400 page biography on this remarkable woman (*Corinne Gallant : Une pionnière du féminisme en Acadie*, Institut d'études acadiennes, 2012).

“My career as a philosophy professor prompted me to deepen our understanding of the notion of ‘person,’” said Ms. Gallant. “So, I worked with feminist groups to lobby for improvements to the deplorable situation of women in our society. We have been fortunate that the Human Rights Act has been a wonderful tool to help us advance toward a fair and equal society.”

The New Brunswick Human Rights Award was established by the Human Rights Commission in 1988 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Each year, the award is presented to an individual or group in New Brunswick that has shown outstanding effort, achievement and leadership on a volunteer basis in the promotion of human rights and equality.

The award is an elegant wood sculpture that is kept on permanent display at Government House in Fredericton. The recipients are listed on its base, and each recipient is presented with a framed certificate and the Human Rights Award lapel pin.

The award is presented around New Brunswick Human Rights Day, Sept. 15, which is the anniversary of the coming into effect of the *Human Rights Act* in 1967.

LINK: [high resolution photo](#)

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