

Governor General honours Lucille Harper

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The Governor General Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case recognizes outstanding individuals who have helped to advance equality

for women.

Pomquet's Lucille Harper, a 2010 recipient, is honoured to receive the award but doesn't necessarily buy into the "individual" part.

"When they make an award, they give it to one person but

nobody does this work alone," Harper said.

"When I look at the work that has been done and what this award is really recognizing, it's the collective work of women in our community and in our province to try and create a world based on core values of caring, sharing and nurturing. And we've had support across the community and province and many of those allies are men."

Harper added that it's interesting that the award is in recognition of the Persons Case, which was really the work of five Alberta women who, in 1929, worked to have women recognized as persons.

"So I think, they didn't do the work alone either," she said.

Harper has been the executive director of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre since 1988, where she has helped girls and women on issues of poverty, violence, social exclusion, health education and training. She said she feels the award recognizes her collective work rather one or two specific efforts during her career.

"I think what they've recognized is the work I've been involved with in not only our own women's centre but with women organizations across the province," she said. "With Women's Centres Connect, any number of anti-poverty organizations, and anti-violence or awareness and prevention groups. It's really the culmination over the years."



Pomquet's Lucille Harper is presented with Governor General Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case by Governor General David Johnston at a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Monday. (MCpl. Dany Veillette photo)

Harper

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to the Canadian Research Institute on the advancement of women as being part of that collective work.

To accept the award, Harper

travelled to Ottawa on Sunday and was presented with the honour during a Monday ceremony at Rideau Hall. Monday was officially Persons Day.

She joined Marie Louise Fish of Elgin, Ont., Barbara Mowat of Abbotsford, B.C. and two Quebec women, Kerline Joseph

See Harper on 2A of Delson and Anne Michaud of Montreal, as 2010 recipients.

"This year we recognize five more women whose hard work has truly benefitted women and girls," said Rona Ambrose, Minister for the Status of Women, in a press release announcing the award recipients. "The legacy of the Famous Five (Alberta women in 1929) endures in these award recipients. We are proud to recognize the ongoing contributions of Canadians to improving the lives of women and girls in communities across the country."

the Casket
Oct 20/10