

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

May 31, 2011

**Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada presents the first annual SEVEC Ambassador Award to Plessisville, QC teacher**



*(Mary Reeves, SEVEC Board Chair; Daniel Bernier, Polyvalente la Samare; and Michel Lemay, Director General-Citizen Participation for the Department of Canadian Heritage)*

OTTAWA – On Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, in honour of their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) presented the first SEVEC Ambassador Award to teacher Daniel Bernier of Polyvalente la Samare in Plessisville, QC.

The SEVEC Ambassador Award, or SAA, is inspired by the hundreds of teachers, group organizers, chaperones and parents who demonstrate exceptional leadership and dedication to youth through SEVEC's Youth Exchanges Canada program each year. Starting this year, the SAA will be presented annually in partnership with the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

This award was a surprise for recipient Daniel Bernier who was honoured in front of his colleagues, students, and SEVEC partners and supporters. Since his first exchange over ten years ago, Daniel Bernier has been a true ambassador for SEVEC's Youth Exchanges Canada program. With a spirited and cheerful attitude, he has dedicated countless hours to coordinating a number of dynamic educational exchanges.

“Even when he is not leading a youth exchange, Mr. Bernier continues to offer his support to SEVEC by speaking at conferences and promoting the value of exchanges at every opportunity,” said Mary Reeves, Chair, Board of Directors, SEVEC.

“We are pleased to be partnering with SEVEC on this initiative” said Mary-Lou Donnelly, President of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation. “Every year, teachers across Canada take part in the Youth Exchanges Canada program to provide their students with enriching educational experiences outside the classroom. We are proud to salute their efforts through this award.”

Funding for the Youth Exchanges Canada Program is provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Every year, 5000 youth take part in an exchange within Canada with all travel costs covered through the funding.

If you know of someone who deserves to be acknowledged for their outstanding leadership and dedication to youth through SEVEC’s Youth Exchanges Canada program, nominate them at [www.sevec.ca](http://www.sevec.ca).

## **SOCIETY FOR EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND EXCHANGES IN CANADA**

The Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) is a national charitable organization that has been providing educational exchanges, trips and forums for Canadian youth for 75 years. Over 350,000 youth have benefitted from our programming.

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