

3. Women Building Peace Award Announcement – February 15, 2009

Canadian Department of Peace Initiative (CDPI) is proud to announce the first recipient of the Women Building Peace Award - Big Congratulations to Nicole Charron.

The Canadian Department of Peace Initiative in Ottawa in cooperation with the Civilian Peace Service Canada (CPSC) hosted the first Women Building Peace Event in October 2008 followed by a Conference in 2009. One of the goals of this endeavour was to provide recognition in real support for a woman demonstrating working by peaceful means. The first Women Building Peace Award, a financial gift, was presented to Nicole Charron on February 15, 2009. The recipient was to be selected based on her ability to demonstrate qualities of a peace professional according to the values and competencies laid out by the Civilian Peace Service Canada.

Nicole has worked in conflict resolution for over 20 years as a mediator, trainer, Director of Mediation Services at the Department of National Defence, Ombudsman at Health Canada and now as an independent consultant. Besides her accreditation in facilitation, alternative dispute resolution, third party neutral, coaching and change management she has 2 B.A degrees and a Masters in project management. She is now working on finalizing her doctorate in the field of identity transformation and peace building.

Her Award sponsor was the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution who described Nicole's motivation as first to equip individuals to be conflict resolvers and peace builders, and second to make this world a more peaceful and better place to live.

Her personal statement in describing her values and experience demonstrated a strong empathy with the people she works with and a humble dedicated commitment to resolving peace by peaceful means. She stated:

“Whether in Canada or abroad, I could see that the most noble form of power is revealed in the heart of each person when he or she becomes aware of his or her own responsibility to learn and to be reconciled with himself or herself to achieve a lasting mission of peace.”

As a result of her selection as a Woman Building Peace, Radio Canada selected her as Personality of the Week where she appeared on TV and radio. Please follow the links below to listen to and/or view her interviews.

We are indeed proud to have Nicole Charron represent us as the recipient of the first Women Building Peace award.