

REACHING THE SUMMIT: AN EXCEPTIONAL TRIO!

In 2003, the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) created a new award, the "Medal for Exceptional Contributions to Early Childhood Development", to recognize those who make outstanding efforts to improve the lives of young children. In its inaugural year, the medal has been awarded to an exceptional trio: Mr. André Chagnon, Dr. Fraser Mustard and the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain.

MR. ANDRÉ CHAGNON

Founder and former president of the internationally recognized telecommunications company Vidéotron Inc., Mr. André Chagnon also set up the largest private foundation in Canada. The mission of the André and Lucie Chagnon Foundation is to improve the physical and

psycho-
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ing of in-
dividuals,
families

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- Mr. André Chagnon

and children by focusing on the causes of illness and socio-economic exclusion. In setting the Foundation's priorities, Mr. Chagnon was deeply influenced by his meetings with Dr. Fraser Mustard, who emphasized the need and importance of early childhood programs. After much research and consultation, the Foundation decided to focus on children between the ages of zero and six. As Mr. Chagnon



Mr. André Chagnon (right) receives the CEECD Award from Dr. Richard E. Tremblay, Director of the Centre of Excellence.

noted, "If we want to make a difference, there is only one place we should start: early childhood development." The Foundation is investing several million dollars a year to support programs for pregnant mothers and young children in poor neighbourhoods. This unparalleled investment is meant to significantly reduce child poverty, a known risk factor for a host of social, health and developmental problems.

For more information: www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development is one of five Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being funded by Health Canada.

The views expressed herein do not represent the official policies of Health Canada.