

Medal for exceptional contributions 2004



PIONEERS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

This year, the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) salutes the outstanding work of four pioneers who have championed the importance of the early years and improved the lives of young children. The recipients of the 2004 CEECD Medal for Exceptional Contributions to Early Childhood Development are Mrs. Thérèse Gouin-Décarie, Mr. James J. Heckman, Elder Mary Thomas and The Lawson Foundation.

MRS. THÉRÈSE GOUIN-DÉCARIE

An internationally recognized researcher and a much-respected teacher in the Department of Psychology at the Université de Montréal, Thérèse Gouin-Décarie has devoted her professional life to advancing our understanding of the social, emotional and intellectual development of babies and young children. Her work has garnered international attention, helping to create in Quebec a strong foundation of research with young children. Gouin-Décarie was one of the first to study intelligence and affectivity in children born with birth defects from thalidomide. She also pioneered research into the socialization of babies, looking at what they were

attracted to, what scared them and what influenced them.

The mother of four, grandmother of two and recipient of three honorary doctoral degrees and numerous awards, Gouin-Décarie spent almost 40 years teaching and helping students learn about the early childhood years. *"Today, our knowledge has widened and deepened tremendously and is based mostly on countless studies of neurological, motor, affective and social growth during these crucial years. But now we need researchers to tell us how these various aspects of development interact during the most important time of human life."*



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For more information : www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca

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