



**PRIME MINISTER HONOURS OUTSTANDING TEACHERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO
THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION**

OTTAWA – Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the recipients of the 2009 Prime Minister’s Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education.

Maureen Harris affiliated with the University of Windsor, the Children’s House Montessori, and the American Montessori Research Centre, is the recipient of multiple national awards this year – the *Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Award*, and the *Prime Minister’s Distinguished Award*. As the music coordinator for The Children’s House Montessori, under the direction of Ms. Julie DiPonio-Roy, Maureen created Montessori Mozarts by working with parents to develop workable, personalized strategies to help children discover music, make it a regular part of their lives, and use it to help them discover the world, their feelings, and their strengths. Maureen also founded a mentoring program, offering future music, elementary and early childhood teacher’s practicum work experience through hands on teaching with young children.

“A good teacher inspires a thirst for learning that lasts a lifetime,” said Prime Minister Harper. “The outstanding teachers honoured today are an inspiration to us all. They play an invaluable role in our children’s development and in the future success of our country”.

This year Prime Minister’s Awards were presented to educators from preschool through to secondary school from across Canada. All have been recognized by parents and fellow educators as leaders who have been innovative in helping students excel.

“As a parent, I know the difference an outstanding teacher can make in a child’s life,” said Prime Minister Harper. “As Prime Minister, I am grateful for the contributions of all Canadian teachers, and especially this year’s Prime Minister’s Award recipients, whose dedication and skills are enriching the lives of young Canadians across the country.”

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