



5th Medal Ceremonies Gala – Multiculturalism Arts and Occupations
Carrefour des Communautés du Québec (CCQ)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Madam Minister, Mister Minister, Distinguished Guests, I am very pleased to welcome you to Carrefour's 5th Medal Ceremonies Gala. Established in 2001, the *Carrefour des Communautés du Québec* seeks to bring together all of Quebec's diverse cultural communities. Carrefour is a meeting place where we take the time to get to know and recognize one another, thereby creating relationships far beyond our differences, be they political, social, religious, racial or ethnic. With a foundation of trust, we uncover the wealth of our diversity, the cornerstone of lasting peace. This is why tonight's theme is PEACE AND DIVERSITY.

In contrast to war, shrouded in violence and a symbol of destruction, peace is silent, it is the fruit of a state of mind that we must feed within ourselves every single day. To lead a peaceful life, one must be curious of the Other, must want to get to know the Other, must also want to open oneself to the Other, take the time to speak with and listen to one another. That is harmony beyond differences. I believe I have just concisely presented Carrefour and its mission.

In creating the multicultural outreach medal we strive to recognize the immense talent, the impressive labour, the creativity, the entrepreneurship, the adaptability and the incredible determination of our immigrants and we are proud to be able to present tonight's recipients as leading examples to newcomers. Congratulations to all of our recipients tonight. Each one of you, in your own way, has contributed to multicultural bridging and the country's economic development for which we are deeply grateful.

Tonight, I hope you will be infused with this spirit of peace and brotherhood and on the eve of the Holiday Season, with all my heart, I wish it will remain within us throughout 2006.

Thank you and have a good evening.

*Christian Martin,
Carrefour Founding President*

November 26, 2005