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PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER HONOURS OUTSTANDING LOCAL TEACHER FOR HER CONTRIBUTION TO CANADA'S FUTURE

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Stephen Harper today presented Susan Watson of Erindale Nursery School Inc., in Mississauga, Ontario, with a 2009 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The Award was presented at a ceremony in Ottawa marking the celebration of World Teachers' Day.

"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, the Prime Minister presented 84 awards to educators from across Canada, including Certificates of Excellence and Certificates of Achievement for teaching excellence at all grade levels, from preschool through to secondary school. All recipients have been recognized by parents and fellow educators as innovative leaders who have helped students excel.

Susan Watson was honoured today for her consistent approach with children to maintain structure and fairness. She is a keen observer of each child's challenges and will adapt parts of her teaching program to suit children with particular needs, while keeping it current and innovative. Ms. Watson makes a point of building and maintaining relationships with children and parents from her first contact with them. Throughout the school year she links families with common interests, such as primary school children who attend swim class or dance activities, so the families can support each other.

“As a parent, I know the difference an outstanding teacher can make in a child’s life,” said the Prime Minister. “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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