

Lewis Perinbam Award



The Lewis Perinbam Award Trustees and World University Service of Canada (WUSC) are pleased to announce that a winner has been selected for the 2014 Lewis Perinbam Award in International Development.

This year's winner will be announced at the International Forum, on Friday January 23, 2015 in Montreal. The recipient will receive a monetary award of \$2,500 towards their volunteer work.

About the Lewis Perinbam Award

The award recognizes significant volunteer efforts that:

- improve people's lives in the developing world;
- engage and inspire Canadians to undertake volunteer action;
- offer new ways of thinking about and/or addressing development challenges.

The award commends individuals who make a noteworthy volunteer contribution to international development, rather than paid professionals in this arena. However, paid professionals who make a significant voluntary effort are also eligible for the Lewis Perinbam Award.

Nominations for the 2015 Lewis Perinbam Award in International Development will open in Spring 2015.

Winner



2014: Fiona Sampson is a human rights lawyer with a PhD in women's equality law who has dedicated her 20+ year career to seeking justice for society's disadvantaged: aboriginals, refugees, and victims of violence. In 2008 she founded **the equality effect**, a Toronto-based non-profit organization that uses international human rights law to make girls/women's rights real; a main area of focus for the equality effect is the protection of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa from rape. As its Executive Director, she led her team to a May 2013 landmark victory in Kenya where the country's High Court found the government guilty of failing to protect girls from rape. Fiona has been called one of the world's "women revolutionaries" alongside notables that include Gloria Steinem, Hillary Clinton, and Isobel Coleman.

In addition to her full-time role with the equality effect, Fiona serves as an appointed member of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. An experienced litigation lawyer, she has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada representing various women's NGOs in equality rights cases. Fiona has received many awards and much recognition for her human rights work; most recently Fiona was appointed an Ashoka Fellow, named the 2014 Lawyer of the Year by the New York State Bar Association, named one of Canada's Top 25 Lawyers (Top 5 on the "World Stage"), and named one of 50 "Global Heroes" working to end violence against children, along with Queen Noor and Hillary Clinton, amongst others.

About Lewis Perinbam



Lewis Perinbam, O.C. (1925-2007) was admired and appreciated for his vast contributions to Canadian participation in development. Mr. Perinbam, who was born in Malaysia and educated in Scotland, was committed to sharing his knowledge of the developing world with Canadians who wanted to make a difference. He was the founding Executive Director of CUSO, the first full time Secretary-General of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO and was for many years the General Secretary and CEO of World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

Joining the Canadian International Development Agency in 1969, he became the founding Director General of the Non-government Organizations Division, which he both pioneered and championed in the Agency and was later named Vice President, Special Programs - now the Canadian Partnership Branch. He continued to be sought after for important leadership and consultative roles.

He led the Task Force on the Participation of Visible Minorities in the Public Service, whose 2000 report won respect - and generated change - throughout government and industry.

In October 1997 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. Mr. Perinbam served on numerous NGO Boards of Directors and was a longstanding advisor to the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE).