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News Service

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TWELVE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS GET MEDALS

Eleven Manitobans and one Saskatchewan resident have received special service medals for long years of dedicated and outstanding employment in the corrections field.

The Corrections Exemplary Service Medal was developed by the federal government to recognize long and distinguished service in high risk professions providing public security. The medals were awarded to recipients for the first time last year.

Peace officers with 20 years or more of service in federal or provincial jails or in parole or probation services are eligible for the award.

This year's local medal recipients were honored Friday at a special reception in Government House hosted by Lieutenant Governor Pearl McGonigal. Community Services Minister Muriel Smith represented the province of Manitoba and James A. Phelps, Regional Deputy Commissioner, Correctional Services of Canada, Prairie Region, represented the federal government.

Mr. Phelps explained that medal's design of a crossed torch and key incorporates the ideals of hope and security, the dual tasks of correctional staff.

Mrs. Smith said all Manitobans owe a debt of gratitude to the award recipients. "They have chosen careers that pose a constant threat to their well being in order that they may ensure the public's safety and security."

She reported that the province continues to move towards a broader range of alternatives to incarceration for offenders.

"However, I underscore the continuing need for dedicated and caring peace officers to maintain the best interests of the public, while ensuring that justice is served in a fair and compassionate manner."

Local recipients honored Friday were:

Oslen Steve Belle, a parole officer in Winnipeg who joined the Correctional Service of Canada in 1964 as an inmate training officer at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary. He is also a registered psychologist, recognized for his extensive work with difficult cases, particularly involving mentally ill offenders.

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Manitoba Youth
Moving Ahead
International
Youth Year 1985



James Allan Hickey, Supervisor of Visits and Correspondence, who joined the Correctional Service of Canada in 1955 as a guard at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary. He has developed highly successful volunteer and family visit programs at the jail.

Jan Jongstra, a "living unit officer" at the Rockwood Institution, a minimum security farm operation, joined the Correctional Service of Canada in 1957 as a guard at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

Douglas Lawrence, Senior Policy Analyst in Corrections for the Manitoba Government, who joined Manitoba Corrections in 1959 as Superintendent of the Manitoba Home for Girls.

Joseph Gaston Marcel Leblanc, recreation specialist at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, who joined the Correctional Service of Canada in 1964 as a guard at that institution.

James MacDonald, Superintendent of the Brandon Correctional Institution, who joined the Ontario Corrections Service in 1958 at Toronto's Don Jail. He has held a number of senior positions in correctional institutions across Western Canada.

Russell Wayne Muth, parole officer with the Winnipeg Parole Office, who joined the Correctional Service of Canada in 1964 as sentence administrator at Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

May Porter, now retired, was instrumental in developing administration and release procedures at the Portage Correction Centre for Women, which she joined in 1965, as well as initiating a craft program in 1974.

Thomas Lloyd Robinson is a senior correctional officer at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary, where he has served since 1964.

Walter Robson is Superintendent of the Dauphin Correctional Institution, which he joined in 1956. He was responsible for developing a near "open door" policy at the institution, which is considered unique.

Burton Rutley, retired Assistant Superintendent at the Dauphin Correctional Institution, where he had served since 1957. He retired last spring..

Sepp Tschierschwitz, Warden-Designate of Edmonton Institution, the Prairie Region's maximum security institution, joined the Correctional Service of Canada in 1962 as a health care officer at Stony Mountain Penitentiary. He has held a number of senior positions in federal correctional institutions throughout Western Canada.