



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

# Release

Date: October 5, 2009

For immediate release

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



**OTTAWA** — Prime Minister Stephen Harper today presented Jacquelyn Sturton of Pinawa Cooperative Nursery School, in Pinawa, Manitoba, 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.

Jacquelyn Sturton was honoured today for her commitment to provide the most positive, educational and encouraging atmosphere possible to promote growth and learning among children. She tailors her programs to provide appropriate learning environments for the children in her care. She is also involved in the “Ready, Set, Grow” program, which prescreens three- and four-year-olds for school readiness. Furthermore, Ms. Sturton is one of the founders of “grassroots,” a local program to provide community support for families raising children.



“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.”