

Recent Recognitions of MP Mauril Bélanger

January 29, 2016 – Ordre national Grand-Croix “Honneur et Mérite,” Republic of Haiti

With this honour, the Haitian government expressed its gratitude to Mauril Bélanger for his tremendous solidarity with the Haitian community in Canada and his long-time friendship with the Republic of Haiti. To support the education of talented young Haitians, Mauril helped establish a \$100,000 scholarship fund for Haitian-Canadian students at the University of Ottawa and is on his way to doing the same for the University of Quebec in Outaouais. The Ordre national Grand-Croix was presented to Mauril by Haiti’s minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Lener Renauld, who came to Canada specifically for the ceremony.

February 25, 2016 – Prix Bernard-Grandmaître, ACFO Ottawa

Awarded each year by the association of francophone communities of Ottawa (ACFO Ottawa) to an individual who demonstrates dedication, perseverance and commitment in advancing the francophone community in Ottawa, the Prix Bernard-Grandmaître was presented to Mauril Bélanger this year. During a toast, Mauril elicited sustained applause when he said that it would be wrong for the City of Ottawa not to be officially bilingual in 2017 for the 150th anniversary of Confederation. “I hope City Council agrees to entrench the current bilingual policy in the City of Ottawa Act,” he said. Mauril also expressed his support for the proposals of the Movement for an Officially Bilingual Capital of Canada.

March 9, 2016 – Honorary Speaker of the House of Commons for one day

The House of Commons paid quite a tribute to Mauril Bélanger by appointing him honorary Chair Occupant. Mauril had announced his candidacy for the speakership of the House after the 2015 election, but withdrew it on November 30 on the advice of his doctor after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Mauril was deeply appreciative of the honour his colleagues bestowed on him in the House.

April 14, 2016 – Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada’s Achievement Award

The Achievement Award, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada’s highest honour, recognizes the outstanding contributions of men and women to the cause and the development of co-operatives and mutuals in Canada. In 2016, the CMC Board wished to mark Mauril Bélanger's exceptional contribution to promoting, developing and uniting co-operatives and mutuals in Canada. He was described as an outstanding co-operator, a powerful ally and a friend esteemed by many within the co-operative movement.

April 19, 2016 – National Honorary Spokesperson for the WALK for ALS

In 2016, Mauril Bélanger took on the role of National Honorary Spokesperson for the WALK for ALS, a national fundraising event hosted by the provincial ALS societies across Canada. In this capacity, he helped raise awareness, channel hope and raise funds for imperative client support services in each province and ALS research across Canada. Although ALS has taken away his own ability to speak, it has not taken his commitment or passion for helping others.

May 25, 2016 – Award for Outstanding Contribution to Co-op Housing

CHF Canada, in celebrating notable contributions to co-operative housing, conferred its 2016 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Co-op Housing on Mauril Bélanger in recognition of his eight terms as a Member of Parliament, during which time he dedicated himself to speaking out for co-op housing and managed to bring about positive, large-scale changes for the co-op sector in general.

June 2, 2016 – Prix Boréal, Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (FCFA)

Each year, the Acadian and francophone communities federation (FCFA) awards the Prix Boréal in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the development of Canada’s francophone communities. In 2016, the FCFA recognized Mauril Bélanger as a champion of Canada’s official languages who has worked on numerous francophone issues with his usual strength and tenacity, which he is now displaying in his fight against ALS. Mauril was a very active member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages and served as Minister responsible for Official Languages in the government of Prime Minister Paul Martin.

June 15, 2016 – March 22 Medal, Montfort Hospital

Montfort Hospital, Ontario's francophone university hospital, awarded the March 22 Medal to the Honourable Mauril Bélanger, a strong supporter of francophone minority rights. The hospital created the March 22 Medal in 2004 as a symbol of pride, tenacity and perseverance. On March 22, 1997, 26 days after the closure of Montfort Hospital was announced, over 10,000 people demonstrated at the Ottawa Civic Centre to support the effort to save the hospital. Mauril played a key role in that fight. Only 22 medals were produced, and 9 have been awarded to date.

June 22, 2016 – IABC Ottawa's Communicator of the Year Award

The Communicator of the Year Award, given by the Ottawa Branch of the International Association of Business Communications, is designed to recognize people who inspire with their messages, use new and different tools to be clearly understood, have a passion for their community and are trusted leaders and mentors. In 2016, it was noted that Mauril Bélanger has always supported the causes of the people in his community and beyond, from all walks of life. While ALS may have quieted his voice, it has not stopped his determination to be heard and to make a difference in the lives of Canadians from coast-to-coast.