**Gérard-Morisset Award 2018**

**Category: Cultural**

**Toronto**



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(Note, this is a rough translation into English using online tools. Please review the original french version at <http://www.prixduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/prix-qc/desclaureat.php?noLaureat=539>

Today, Quebec, Canada and many other nations consider Christina Cameron to be a great pioneer in the history of cultural heritage conservation. For her, heritage is not a fixed concept and we must approach its conservation, its development, its appropriation and its management in a spirit of openness.

"At the Canada Research Chair on Built Heritage, we are not just researchers in isolation. We participate in several projects of society. Thus, the expert's in-depth analysis and her approach to the evolving nature of the universal value of heritage guide professionals around the world.

It was during the early years of her career in Quebec City, for Parks Canada, that Christina Cameron's interest in heritage crystallized. She has been a researcher and executive director of National Historic Sites from 1970 to 2005. "My time in Quebec influenced the rest of my career. I directed research on the built heritage of the capital. Old Quebec has been a revelation and a great source of inspiration. "

Over time, her meticulous research on landscape heritage and the conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage attracted attention. Then, her pioneering temperament and achievements propelled her towards the international stage as she took over the leadership of the Canadian delegation to the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO ), from 1990 to 2008. A task that requires judgment and discernment when registering a city into the select club of sites of universal value, to protect an animal species threatened with extinction or to preserve an ecosystem weakened by tourism pressure.

"The committee does not want to put the cities under a roof or make them open-air museums. Heritage must not take up all the space, it must leave room for the well-being of the inhabitants. [...] The committee makes decisions to ensure the sustainability of the goods and places, and sometimes it involves changes to make them useful. This is where conservation joins sustainable development. "

Also for UNESCO, Christina Cameron chaired the expert committee responsible for the creation of the global strategy for a more representative list of World Heritage. "We opened the World Heritage Convention and expanded its implementation to look at Africa and parts of Asia that are not on the list. We did not see their place in a system that seemed to especially value the built heritage: castles, monasteries, etc. ". "

For example, Christina Cameron's intellectual contribution and collaboration with various international groups is accelerating the advancement of knowledge about World Heritage issues.

Convincing theorist, reliable source for national and foreign media, reference for the reworking of laws and policies, the specialist has seen its range of action constantly expand. In concrete terms, she has been appointed a member of scientific committees for the revision of the Cultural Property Act (2007) and of Québec's cultural heritage policies (2016-2017 and 2007).

But it is in her role as a professor at the School of Architecture of the Université de Montréal and at the direction of the Research Chair that Christina Cameron's approach has become the best since 2005. forming the youth we can change things. "

Thus, it seeks its vast network to promote the sharing of ideas and the constructive debate. Attached to the training of a competent and committed succession, Christina Cameron organizes the Montreal Round Tables and invites international and national experts. This networking - between her Quebec colleagues, her students and the specialists - helps to elevate thought and to fuel discussions on issues as relevant as the cultural value of nature, the effects of mass tourism or the perception of places of memory.

"We must not forget that we build the heritage of tomorrow. The challenge is to add "layers of value" to preserve the elements of the past without restraining the future. This is an illustration of how Christina Cameron never departs from her line of thinking.