

## **Saint Paul University to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Colonel Maître Michel W. Drapeau**

**Ottawa, June 12, 2025** – Saint Paul University will award an honorary doctorate to Colonel Maître Michel W. Drapeau, a distinguished lawyer and adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa.

The honorary doctorate is the highest distinction awarded by a university. It honours individuals whose outstanding achievements have made a significant contribution to society, the university, and their profession. Through this recognition, Saint Paul University wishes to highlight Colonel Maître Drapeau's remarkable commitment to justice, institutional integrity, and the common good.

Following a 34-year career in the Canadian Armed Forces, Mr. Drapeau dedicated himself to public service, academia, and legal practice. As the founder of a law firm specializing in military law, he has stood out for his leadership in defending the rights of Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans, and their families. He has also played a major role in public debates surrounding military justice and access to information, contributing significantly to national reforms.

His outstanding work has been recognized on numerous occasions through various awards and medals, including the Military Merit Medal and the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Deeply engaged in the academic sphere, Mr. Drapeau has shared his expertise with rigour and passion, inspiring a new generation of legal professionals. He is the author of numerous reference publications and has been frequently invited to appear as an expert before parliamentary committees.

In addition to his legal and academic contributions, Mr. Drapeau served for twelve years on Saint Paul University's Board of Governors, actively contributing to its mission and development.

"Colonel Maître Drapeau embodies the values of justice, moral courage, and community service that we promote at Saint Paul University. Awarding him this honorary doctorate is a way to recognize an exceptional and meaningful journey that inspires our entire university community," said Rector Louis Patrick Leroux.

The ceremony will take place on Monday, June 16, 2025, during Saint Paul University's Convocation.

This honorary degree will be presented alongside that of Senator Michèle Audette, reflecting the University's tribute this year to two outstanding careers.

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For more information:

Nesrine Oukid  
Communications Officer  
Saint Paul University  
Tel.: 613-236-1393 - 2338  
Email: [noukid@ustpaul.ca](mailto:noukid@ustpaul.ca)