

Saint Paul University to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Senator Michèle Audette

Ottawa, June 12, 2025 –Saint Paul University will confer an honorary doctorate upon Senator Michèle Audette, in recognition of her outstanding commitment to Indigenous rights, social justice, and reconciliation.

The honorary doctorate is the highest distinction awarded by a university. It recognizes individuals whose achievements have made a significant impact on society and reflect the fundamental values of the institution. Saint Paul University is proud to honour Senator Audette for her unwavering advocacy for Indigenous women's rights, the transmission of knowledge, and the promotion of dialogue between nations.

“Michèle Audette embodies living reconciliation—driven by courage, attentive listening, and action,” said Louis Patrick Leroux, Rector of Saint Paul University. “Her deep engagement with communities, her bridge-building leadership, and her tireless voice for justice resonate powerfully with our University’s mission.”

An Innu woman and prominent public figure in Canada, Senator Audette has held numerous key positions, including President of the Native Women's Association of Québec and of Canada, Associate Deputy Minister for the Status of Women in Québec, Commissioner of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and Senior Advisor on Reconciliation and Indigenous Education at Université Laval. Since 2021, she has served as a senator in the Senate of Canada.

Throughout her career, she has combined grassroots presence with institutional influence and educational leadership. Her work has led to the creation of numerous transformative initiatives in education, justice, memory, and the recognition of Indigenous knowledge. Her voice—firm yet compassionate—has raised awareness and opened paths for dialogue and equity.

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

This honorary degree will be presented alongside the distinction awarded to Colonel-Maître Michel W. Drapeau, reflecting the University's tribute this year to two outstanding careers.

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For more information:

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