

Attention: Rein Ende and Howard Elliott  
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Re: Local pair winners of World Citizenship Awards

On Wednesday October 8th, I had the pleasure to be part of the presentation of the 2014 World Citizenship Awards at City Hall that was presented jointly to my sister Alfredine (Linda) Plourde and a young man Leo Johnson. They were both amazing and equally worthy recipients.

Upon reading the Spectator on Thursday October 11, 2014 on: "Local pair winners of World Citizenships Awards", my first reaction, however, was one shock and disbelief. How could the Spectator report on joint recipients by then only highlight one of the recipients and display one picture only. I simply had to read the article over and over again to understand how Linda could be so overlooked in your reporting of her fabulous achievements.

I am sad for my sister that, for all the years of her life she has devoted and sacrificed her time with family and friends, invested her own retirement money into her foundation, to help children in care. In your article, this appears to have been totally ignored. On the one hand, she has an award and on the other hand, you have robbed her of the limelight by offering absolutely no description of the work that she has done.

If you are presenting an article about a 'local pair' of individuals receiving an award, and then only highlighting in great detail one of them that is discrimination. Why concentrate only on the achievements of one person, when the article is about a joint pair of winners. This is the point of my letter to you today. To all the people I spoke with, this appears to be their conclusion. It was very unfair treatment of my sister based on a fact that she speaking about an appalling and shocking subject no one want to hear about. Discrimination is a violation of a person's human rights and I strongly feel my sister has been discriminated against.

At the ceremony, my sister spoke with passion about the years of volunteer efforts to try to help the children under a system that is still failing too many children. It describes the problems Canadians are confronted with and the people of this country keep on ignoring. I personally was shocked to hear those numbers.

My sister Linda has a generous heart, with no strings attached. It has no conditions. She give freely without expectation, and everyone she known know that. I believe my sister has been victim of discrimination, and there were multiple witnesses there.

I do hope that you might take a serious look at this situation. My sister gave everything she got in order to help children in care, while we focus on what we don't have rather than on what we have, while she courageously focus on the protection and welfare of our children and grandchildren without any compensation whatsoever. It is utterly heart-wrenching to see that our own hero right here in Canada is being so disregarded.

Please report the article with the same courtesy and respect you gave to that young man. Looking forward to a response. Thank you!

Yours sincerely;  
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