



Rideau Hall

News Release



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20 Members of the Order of Canada to Mentor 20 Young Canadians

OTTAWA—During the Order of Canada investiture ceremony on February 22, 2008, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, will officially announce the creation of a mentorship program pairing up members of the Order of Canada with young Canadians.

“We must instill in the hearts of our youth the confidence, pride, audacity and desire to push themselves to their limit,” the Governor General has stated. “We have to build bridges between the generations so that they can enrich one another. We need to introduce these young people to the role models who inspire them.”

In partnership with the Top 20 Under 20™ program, presented by Youth In Motion, the Governor General will launch this mentorship pilot project that will match 20 members of the Order of Canada with the Top 20 Under 20™ award recipients. The names of the 20 young recipients and their mentors will be announced in June 2008. The Governor General is the patron of Youth In Motion.

In addition to in-person encounters, this mentorship program will utilize modern online tools. The *Citizen Voices* Web site (www.citizenvoices.gg.ca) will offer the young participants and their mentors a secure space in which to connect with one another and share their conversations with the public using blogs, video blogs and forums. Site users will therefore be able to follow along as participants go through this unique experience and see how the program enriches both sides of the mentoring relationship.

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