



## EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEERS!

### Martin Lominy, Supervisor of educational and clientele services

Each year, the museum has the privilege of welcoming exceptional volunteers who stand out due to their excellent work. Here are some of them.

#### Isabella

Having arrived at the museum in February 2009, this mother of two, who recently immigrated from Peru, wished to learn more about the culture of Quebec while practicing her French. She first became a workshop animator to improve her language skills so she could become a tour guide the following season. Not only did she successfully complete the training program but she went on to become one of the best tour guides at the museum in a position that is particularly difficult for someone who is still learning the language. For her achievements, she won the prize of 'Grande Bénévole'. Her excellent work, perseverance and outstanding efforts in integration are a source of inspiration for our immigrant volunteers who make up so many of our volunteer workers.

#### Sophie

Having arrived at the museum in September 2009, this young professional, who recently immigrated from France, was in the process of looking for employment. With a bachelor's degree in art history, a master's degree in museum studies and experience in animation, she quickly became a tour guide. Already excellent in the position, her skills allowed her to assist in the training of other tour guides. However, this was only the beginning as, after only three months, she had already taken on all of the other volunteer positions in both education and conservation. It was the first time that a volunteer had been involved in all of the museum's activities! As well as being an excellent example to the less experienced volunteers, her work also shows that talent knows no boundaries.

#### Ginette

Having volunteered at the museum for over 10 years, this retired career woman put her passion for the museum into the service of education. Having received the prize of 'Grande bénévole' as a tour guide, she continues relentlessly to guide the school visits as well as participate in the training of new volunteers. Her curiosity and devotion are the essential qualities which make her a dynamic and talented tour guide. Her contribution to the educative activities at the museum can only be equalled by her interest for the institution which is of great importance to her.

#### Josée

Having arrived at the museum in September 2009, this art history student hoped to gain experience in the field before finishing her studies. She began working as a technician and workshop animator, the specialized positions that best suited her university schedule. During the school year, she assisted in the installation of exhibitions as well as with the cataloguing of the collection. Never has a volunteer at the museum put in so many hours in so little time despite a busy university schedule. An excellent work experience towards her future career.

#### Marianne

Having volunteered at the museum for two years, this career woman with a degree in architecture, hoped to reorient her career towards the cultural domain. Therefore, she began volunteering as a tour guide to discover the domain before making a decision for her university application. Her volunteer position gave her the opportunity to discuss career options with different museum professionals and she finally reoriented her career towards cultural animation. Her professional devotion has been rewarded with the prize of 'Grande bénévole'.

**Note:** The names in this article have been changed but the stories are real.

