

Gabrielle Léger Medal – Dr. Christina Cameron



An internationally recognized expert in the field of heritage conservation and highly regarded for her outstanding contributions to heritage theory and policy, Dr. Christina Cameron is the closest we come to someone who embodies the heritage conservation field in Canada, both to Canadians and to the global cultural heritage community.

A seasoned academic, with studies covering literature, art, architectural history and museum studies, Dr. Cameron earned an MA in Art History from Brown University and a Ph.D. in Architectural History from Laval University.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Cameron joined Parks Canada Agency to work on the newly created Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings. As a member of the executive over the next 30 years she oversaw the development of the agency's Cultural Resource Management Policy, an integrated and holistic approach to the management of the cultural resources in its national parks, national historic sites, historic canals and national marine conservation areas. She also guided the development of other important Canadian policies, such as Commemorative Integrity. Notable positions included Secretary to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and Director-General of National Historic Sites Directorate of Parks Canada, where she steered the progress of the Federal Heritage Building Program and the ground-breaking Historic Places Initiative.

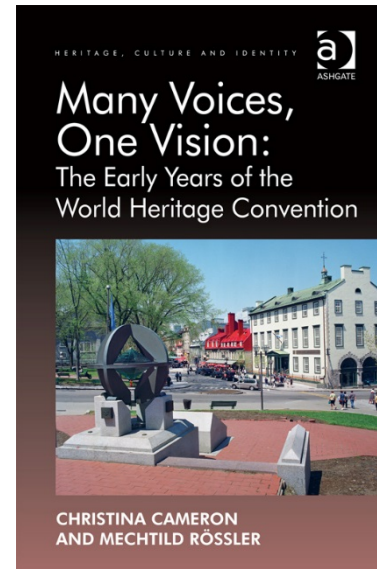
Dr. Cameron's passion for heritage conservation also took her abroad. She spent 18 years heading the Canadian delegation to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and twice served as Chair of the World Heritage Committee. In addition, she chaired a number of important international expert meetings including those related to historic canals, cultural landscapes and a proposal to establish a World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts.

In 2005, in acknowledgement of her remarkable career, Dr. Cameron was appointed Canada Research Chair in Built Heritage at the University of Montreal. She is also Vice-President of Canada's Advisory Committee on Official Residences and a Board member of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and Centre for Cultural Landscape, recently taking on the role of President of the Board.

Throughout her career Dr. Cameron has maintained an enduring interest in education, evidenced by her numerous publications—in both official languages—on Canadian and World Heritage cultural resource issues. Most recently, she co-authored with Dr. Mechtild Rössler the book, *Many Voices, One Vision: The Early Years of the World Heritage Convention*, an invaluable look at the formative years of this important international instrument.

Dr. Cameron's extraordinary contribution to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Canada and abroad has been recognized by numerous organizations over the years. She has been awarded the prestigious Public Service Outstanding Achievement Award, inducted as a Fellow into the Royal Society of Canada, and in July 2014 was named President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

Duty, hard work and a sense of perfection have remained Dr. Cameron's hallmark, while her unique abilities have inspired an abiding respect in colleagues and peers in many disciplines around the world.



Since the awarding of the Gabrielle Léger Medal, Dr. Cameron has been appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Christina Cameron was nominated by Julian Smith, executive director of Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and Centre for Cultural Landscape.