

**The 2019 recipient of the Storykeeper Award is Montreal's Sylvi Belleau! Congratulations Sylvi!**

Many threads have been woven together in the creating of Sylvi Belleau, the storyteller. Due to her own curiosity, sense of adventure and her life-long love of learning, Sylvi has immersed herself in the theatre arts, including drama, dance, writing and comedy. She is also to this day, pursuing a doctorate in theatre arts at Laval University. She has broken down barriers along the way, building bridges between the French and English communities, between children and their elders, and between the past and the present.

As a storyteller immersed in different genres, she has graced the stage at festivals across the Québec region; France; Nova Scotia and Ottawa, leaving her listeners spellbound with the magic she weaves in telling folktales, myths and legends, with a calm, inclusive voice and joyous presence.



Her love of story has helped to shape two memorable SC-CC conferences (Montréal 2012 and Lévis 2015), as well as encouraging her to help organize and then direct and perform in the Festilou Festival created in 2010, to reach thousands of children in venues throughout Montréal.

Which brings us to another fearless initiative of Sylvi's. In 1985 she created her own theatre and storytelling company "Le Théâtre de la Source" and from that venue advanced her presence in schools and libraries across Québec. She welcomed and featured other tellers, to broaden the listeners' experience through the programme "L'École montréalaise pour tous". Le Théâtre de l'Esquisse, which shares the same venue, was created expressly to reach out to youth and families through story.

A member of several arts organizations, Sylvi, as a member of SC-CC, served as a volunteer treasurer for seven years, having learned from the practical experience of managing her own theatre. She was able to achieve, in her presentations at the SC-CC conferences, easily understood financial reports, and there are members of the SC-CC Board who to this day, remark upon the grace with which she filled that role and the thoughtful contributions that she brought to the table.

It is impossible, in this format, to document all that Sylvi has contributed to the art of storytelling in Canada. She has been a powerful mentor, a voice of reason against fear and hatred, and an explorer of many creative endeavours. Did I mention that she is also an author? Her scope is limitless! It is an honour to be able to present Sylvi with this award.