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For Immediate Release

UWinnipeg Collegiate Teacher Recognized by Prime Minister: Award For Teaching Excellence

WINNIPEG – Collegiate teacher Lesley Sisler has been selected as a 2001-2002 winner of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence (Certificate of Achievement). She will be honoured in a ceremony on **Thursday, June 27 at 10:30 in the Atrium at the University of Winnipeg** (515 Portage Avenue – map attached.) Pat Martin, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre, will join in the celebration as Sisler receives a certificate signed by the Prime Minister.

"The American novelist Edith Wharton commented that there are two ways of spreading light. One can be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. It seems to me that an exceptional teacher--the sort of teacher who attracts the recognition that Lesley Sisler is receiving today--is both," said Martin. "Everything that I have come to know about her suggests that she both inspired and inspiring."

"Lesley Sisler has been the inspiration for me, and hundreds of other students, over the past 23 years of her career as a teacher," agreed Richard Hechter, a former student of Sisler's who returned to the Collegiate to become an award-winning teacher himself. Hechter was similarly recognized with a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence (Certificate of Excellence), for 2000-2001. "I am the product of her teaching," says Hechter. "But I am only one example of the impact that she has had as an educator: she has inspired hundreds of others to listen, speak out, and move into all kinds of challenging areas."

The Prime Minister's Award recognizes elementary and secondary school educators who have best prepared their students for the challenges of a changing society and knowledge-based economy. Sisler will receive a Certificate of Achievement for her work teaching Senior 2 – 4 French, women's studies, and world issues courses at the Collegiate. In addition to the certificate, Sisler will also direct the use of a \$1,000 cash award to be used at the Collegiate.

A total of 65 awards (15 Certificates of Excellence and 50 Certificates of Achievement) were granted to educators across Canada this year. For further details about the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence, please visit <http://www.schoolnet.ca/pma/>

Sisler will be available for comment in both English and French. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact **Director of Communications Katherine Unruh at 204.786.9872 or k.unruh@uwinnipeg.ca**
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