

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Vaudreuil-Dorion honours thirty firefighters during an evening of recognition**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, December 1st, 2023** – During an evening of recognition held on November 30th, 2023, seven firefighters and officers with 20 and 30 years of service respectively were awarded the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal. The event took place in the presence of colleagues, family members, elected officials of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion, including Mayor Guy Pilon, and Deputy Director-General, Mélissa Côté. The ceremony was also an opportunity to honour a total of 24 firefighters who were marking their fifth and tenth anniversaries with the Vaudreuil-Dorion Fire Department.

"I want to thank each and every one of you, officers and firefighters. Your profession carries many risks, as we have all seen in the news over the past few years. I would also like to thank your families, because they also must live with the hazards and demands of your job. We are conscious of the heavy responsibilities your job requires you to carry, and on behalf of the municipal council, I salute your dedication to our citizens," said Guy Pilon, Mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

This year, seven recipients received the Governor General's Firefighters' Exemplary Service Medal. Among them were Mathieu Boutin, Steve Bellalite, Yann Giasson and Jacques Fellis, for their 20 years of service, as well as Bernard Montpellier, John Boudreau and Stéphane Massicotte, for their 30 years of service.

The Firefighters' Exemplary Service Medal program, established in 1985, is intended to recognize the commitment and dedication of firefighters to Canada's fire services. This distinction is awarded to those who have acquired at least 20 years of continuous service, including 10 years in a position involving hazardous work, and have not been the subject of any serious disciplinary actions.

The evening was also an opportunity to present service award bars to firefighters and officers of the Fire Department to mark their 5 and 10 years of continuous service.

**10 years of service:** Yann Blais, Steve Calamia, Rémi Côté, Xavier Dontigny, Miguel Plourde, Marc Santerre and Joé St-Denis

**5 years of service:** Sassan Alborzi, Julien Beaudoin, Philippe Buteau Moisan, Serge Chartrand, Vincent Corriveau, Julien Dallaire, Carl Drapeau, Maxime Gendron, Luc Hornblower, Alex Lamarre Séguin, Maxime Lenoir, Sean O'Neil, Annie Parenteau, Nathan Piché, Philippe Richard, Émilie Rouleau and Maxime Quesnel

Following the presentation of medals and bars, the Fire Department proceeded to swear in the group by reading the oath of allegiance. The evening concluded with a new tradition, marking the departure or retirement of staff members.

"The departure or retirement bell will be installed in the two Vaudreuil-Dorion fire stations in the coming weeks. For this first year marking the beginning of the tradition, three retirees, including Michel Denault, François Séguin and Henri Émond, were invited to ring the bell five times each, symbolizing the 10-5 code of the firefighters, indicating their availability for another call or new assignment," explained Terry Rousseau, Director of the Vaudreuil-Dorion Fire Department.