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News Release

CESO expert to be honoured by the Governor General of Canada *Montreal's René Rheault invited to volunteer event at Rideau Hall*

April 8, 2019 – As National Volunteer Week begins, CESO thanks its 1,300 expert advisors and congratulates René Rheault on being honoured by the Governor General of Canada later this month.

Rheault is a recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, awarded by the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette.

As a Volunteer Advisor, Rheault works closely with clients and partners around the world to improve local economies and people's lives.

Since joining CESO in 2004, he has made a difference in the lives of clients and partners in Haiti, Senegal, Algeria, Burkina Faso, and Indigenous communities across Canada.

In Senegal, for example, he trained the staff of a women's cooperative in improving and standardizing business processes making them more efficient and profitable.

"Volunteers are at the heart of our work," says Wendy Harris, CESO President and CEO. "I am delighted to learn René is among the recipients selected by the Governor General. He has acted as a distinguished Canadian representative in the countries and communities where he has worked."

Rheault's dedicated service to CESO goes beyond his international work. As an in-house volunteer in Montreal, he also provides support to CESO operations in Africa.

"Volunteering is very important to me. Aside from being able to contribute to improving the lives of many, it allows me to have extraordinary life experiences," says Rheault.

"I am driven by a sense of accomplishment when I see that the knowledge I've shared benefits our local partners to improve the lives of their people."

Rheault will be presented with the medal by the Governor General during an invitation-only event for volunteers at Rideau Hall in Ottawa in the last week of this month.



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About Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO)

CESO is an international economic development engine growing sustainable, inclusive businesses, and strengthening government infrastructure. CESO deploys its experts to communities, partners, governments and people starting or growing their businesses around the world and in Canada. A not-for-profit organization since 1967, CESO's experts are volunteer advisors who devote their time and energy toward economic and social change in more than 450 assignments each year.

CESO thanks and gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Global Affairs Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and our private-sector supporters as listed on our website, www.ceso-saco.com.

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