



# COLONEL JOHN GARDAM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD INSTITUTE



## NEWS RELEASE

**GENERAL (RETIRED) RICK HILLIER, OC, CMM, ONL, MSC, CD  
2021 RECIPIENT OF THE  
COLONEL JOHN GARDAM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**DECEMBER 23, 2021**

**OTTAWA, Today** – Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, Founder and President, Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award Institute, announced General (Retired) Rick Hillier, OC, CMM, ONL, MSC, CD, as the recipient of the 2021 Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award. His outstanding character, service and achievements exemplify the qualities of this prestigious award, and he joins the august company of previous recipients.

Previous recipients were:

- ❖ Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Mark Norman, CMM, CD, former Commander, Royal Canadian Navy, and Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff (2019);
- ❖ General (Ret'd) Walter Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD, former Chief of the Defence Staff, and Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada (2017); and,
- ❖ Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Ron Buck, CMM, CD, RCN, former Chief of the Maritime Staff, and Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff (2015).

The Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award was created to recognize excellence in character, loyalty, and exceptionally meritorious achievements during and after military service to Queen and country. It is intended to pay tribute to our gallant sailors, soldiers, airmen, and airwomen that are the very heart and soul of the people, and the spirit of nations. With an aim of highlighting and showcasing their remarkable achievements and continuing accomplishments of our men and women in uniform, this award stands as an official expression of gratitude to those who place their lives in danger in the defence of their country.

This award celebrates the life achievements of Colonel (Ret'd) John Gardam, OC, OMM, MSM, CD, who spent a lifetime serving Canada and Canadian Veterans. He was instrumental in the creation of ***"The Reconciliation"***, Canada's National Peacekeeping Monument and the addition of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to the National War Memorial. Colonel Gardam was also a noted author of several books that captured Veterans' first-hand experiences from the First World War to 1990s Peacekeeping. Among his many accolades, Colonel Gardam was awarded the Order of Canada, by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada in 2012, and was also named to the Honourary Board of Governors of the Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP).

## Quotes

*“On behalf of the Conference of Defence Associations, we salute the selection of General Rick Hillier as this year’s recipient of the Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award. As Chief of the Defence Staff, General Hillier inspired a generation of soldiers, sailors, and aviators thanks to his outstanding visionary leadership, and he remains a tireless champion in reminding all Canadians of the sacrifice, courage and commitment for the men and women who serve in Canada’s Armed Forces.”*  
– Lieutenant General (Retired) G.R. Thibault, CMM, MSC, CD, President, Conference of Defence Associations, and Chair, CDA Institute Board of Directors

*“General Hillier’s lengthy and exceptional service to Canada single him out as a most worthy recipient of the Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his career, his outstanding leadership and connection with those he has led have been shining examples of attributes personified by this prestigious award and have inspired so many others. I am delighted with his selection as the 2021 recipient of this honour and heartily congratulate him on receiving this most deserved accolade.”*  
– Stéphane Ouellette, Founder & President, Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award Institute

## Associated Links

- [Vice–Admiral \(Ret’d\) Mark Norman, CMM, CD, 2019 Recipient of the Colonel Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award | News Release | September 15, 2021](#)
- [Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to General \(Ret’d\) Walter Natynczyk | News Release | February 17, 2017](#)
- [Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Vice-Admiral \(Ret’d\) Ron Buck | News Release | February 20, 2015](#)

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