



**Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
Société de la médecine rurale du Canada**

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Université Laval Family Medicine Honoured as top Program in Canada

QUEBEC CITY, QC /April 17, 2004/ - Université Laval Family Medicine, has been awarded the prestigious Keith Award for the most effective postgraduate rural family medicine program in Canada in 2004.

The award, given annually by the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, is based on an analysis of the quality and quantity of rural physicians produced. Dr Larsen-Soles, newly elected president of the Society says "We are very proud of the achievements of Université Laval Family Medicine. 113 of the 271 graduates of Laval Family Medicine from years 1994 to 1998 were in rural practice two years past graduation, and they score high on the quality measures year after year."

Statistics Canada has found that 31.4% of Canadians live in predominantly rural areas. The national average is only 9% of family medicine graduates who choose to work in rural communities 10 years post graduation. Dr Larsen-Soles says "Université Laval more than doubles the Canadian average by recruiting students from rural areas and training them in the skills that they need to practice in those areas." She adds "We need more schools to become like Université Laval to help us treat the health care needs of people who live in remote areas."

The winner was selected by identifying family medicine residents entering practice through the Canadian Post MD Educational Registry for 1989 to 1991. Practice location was taken from the Canadian Medical Association database for ten years after exiting training. Second, and third place winners, Memorial University and Université de Montréal, also have a strong regional focus.

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Backgrounder

About the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is the national voice of Canadian rural physicians. Founded in 1992, the SRPC's mission is to provide leadership for rural physicians and to promote sustainable conditions and equitable health care for rural communities.

On behalf of its members and the Canadian public, SRPC performs a wide variety of functions, such as developing and advocating health delivery mechanisms, supporting rural doctors and communities in crisis, promoting and delivering rural medical education, encouraging and facilitating research into rural health issues, and fostering communication among rural physicians and other groups with an interest in rural health care.

The SRPC is a voluntary professional organization representing over 1,800 of Canada's rural physicians and comprising 5 regional divisions spanning the country reference <http://www.srpc.ca>