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**For immediate release**

**Ottawa June 19, 2002      Family Services à la famille Ottawa: Gullen Recipient  
Announced**

**Family Services à la famille Ottawa (FSFO)** held its 87th Annual General Meeting last evening. Together staff, volunteers and many community partners celebrated as the agency's new name and logo were unveiled. " This name and symbol were selected to reflect our deep historical roots in the Ottawa community and represent our beliefs and commitment to the value of family and social connections," explained Dr. Timothy Simboli, Executive Director of FSFO.

Valuable contributions were recognized through staff service awards and the celebration of FSFO volunteers. Representatives of the volunteer based programs acted as ambassadors for the 80 volunteers who enrich the delivery of services to individuals and families through their various assignments and dedication within FSFO. "Warmth and courage, sensitivity and a conscientious approach are the qualities which our volunteers bring to their work - without them there would be no program," said K. Pickles, Supervised Access Program Coordinator at FSFO.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Gullen Award, which recognizes significant contributions to the process of social change in the community. Minwaashin Lodge was honoured for their commitment, vision and courage in their work with Aboriginal women and children. Minwaashin Lodge started out as a grassroots organization and has grown to offer services, counselling and shelter to over 750 clients. "To be acknowledged in this way by an agency outside our community is a great honour" said Castille Troy, Executive Director of Minwaashin Lodge, who accepted the award.

FSFO concluded its ceremony by renewing its commitment to clients, promising to raise the awareness of issues effecting the wellbeing of individuals and families in Ottawa.

For additional information on **Family Services à la famille Ottawa** call 725-3601.

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