

2014 Status of Women Committee
Award of Distinction
CITATION FOR DR. MARCIA RIOUX

OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

CITATION FOR MARCIA RIOUX WINNER OF THE 2014 STATUS OF WOMEN AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Dr. Marcia Rioux is a Distinguished Research Professor at the School of Health Policy and Management, Faculty of Health, York University, a Professor in the Critical Disability Studies Graduate Program, and was Director of the York Institute of Health Research from 2002 to 2014.

Dr. Rioux began her career at the Royal Commission on the Status of Women where she wrote the first Canadian study on farm women. As the first Director of Research for the National Advisory Council on the Status of Women, she co-authored research papers that were instrumental in changes to matrimonial property laws, divorce laws, and the removal of a section of the Indian Act that caused Aboriginal women to lose their status if they married non-Aboriginals. During the 1980s, Dr. Rioux's groundbreaking work influenced the reform of rape and sexual assault laws and a seminal Supreme Court decision on sterilization and mental disability. Her work on behalf of the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission included designing regulations on bona fide occupational requirements that focused on eliminating discrimination against women with disabilities.

Her research addresses a broad range of public and health policy issues including health and human rights, health equity, universal education, international monitoring of disability rights, the impact of globalization on welfare policy, disability policy, and social inclusion. An extremely productive scholar, Dr. Rioux's work is actively used on all five continents in thirty-five countries. From Mumbai to the policy tables of the United Nations, her extraordinary research contributions have found a broad and diverse audience

Dr. Rioux was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2014 in recognition of her many years of work for social justice and rights.

As her nomination stated:

Dr. Marcia Rioux's legacy is her visionary research leadership that changed the way that women's, disability, and human rights are perceived, studied, and responded to in the context of human rights and social empowerment. As a trail blazer who is enabling the lives of society's most disadvantaged, her extraordinary research is shaping education and policy standards in Canada and internationally. She has made an enormous and



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

significant difference through her exemplary commitment to the local, national, and international human rights, academic and grassroots disability communities.

As a leader whose impact has reached both far and deep, Dr. Rioux exemplifies the spirit of the Status of Women Award of Distinction.