

## Jacques Hébert

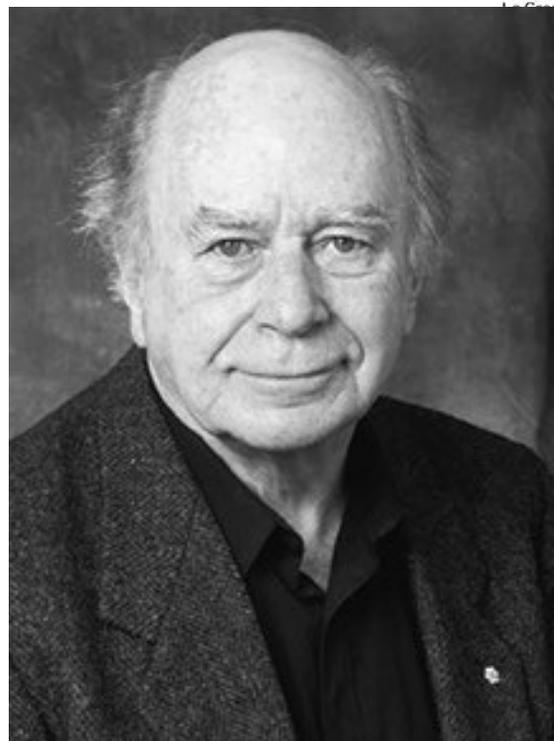
### 1923 - 2007

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Jacques Hébert was an adventurous journalist, a seminal publisher, an influential advocate for youth, and a former senator. His work helped reform the Québec educational system and aided thousands of young Canadians to make a difference here and abroad.

Jacques was born in 1923 in Montreal, and at the age of 16, he began attending the University of Prince Edward Island (then Saint Dunstan's University). There, he learned English, just as his father had done years before him. He embarked on a journalist career for *Le Devoir* in 1951, through which he travelled the world. In 1954, he was a reporter during the Wilbert Coffin trial, where a Quebecer was hanged for being accused of killing three American tourists. He subsequently published three books where he accused the Québec government of using Coffin as a scapegoat to protect the tourism industry. These eventually led to the provincial government establishing a Royal Commission to investigate the case in 1964. During the same year as Coffin's trial, Hébert also launched his own weekly newspaper, *Vrai*, to expose Duplessis' misdeeds and the corruption within Montreal's City Hall. In 1958, he founded his first publishing house, *Les Éditions de l'Homme*, and joined the editorial board of *Cité libre*, a magazine opposing Duplessis' autocratic-style of leadership. In 1961, he founded his second publishing house: *Les Éditions du Jour*. He published *Les Insolences du Frère Untel*, which led to major educational reforms within Québec.

From 1962 to 1970, Jacques worked as a host and scriptwriter for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and from 1971 to 1981, he served as a Commissioner with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). In 1971, he founded Canada World Youth, which enabled over 20,000 young Canadians to participate in exchange programs in



communities all around the globe. In 1977, he founded Katimavik, a youth program fostering volunteer work across the country, today counting over 36,000 alumni.

In 1983, he was appointed to the Senate and remained in office until 1998, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. In 1986, he went on a 21-day hunger strike to protest the defunding of Katimavik by the Mulroney government. Although the strike was originally unsuccessful, the youth program was restored in 1994, largely through his continuous efforts. After retiring from political life, he continued working for a number of causes, such as Duplessis orphans.

Hébert was awarded two honorary doctorates, was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1978, received the Lewis Perinbam Award for International Development in 1995, was nominated for the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize, and was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians in 2007. He died in December of 2007 at the age of 84.