

## **RON YAMANAKA**

Born March 18, 1949, Ron Yamanaka has dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice and just causes. With an emphasis on human rights, women's rights and youth services, he has taught over 250,000 young people by way of Board of Education curriculum programs. Within the Province of Ontario, he has trained on the topics of conflict resolution and sexual assault prevention in all 3 sectors (Private, Catholic and Public) from 1972 until 2003.

### **Boards:**

Ron was a member of the Community Safety Advisory Council (CSAC), attached to the criminal investigations division of York Regional Police.

He has served on numerous Boards, including the Board of Governors for Trafalgar Castle School in Whitby; the College of Physiotherapy of Ontario; the Advisory Board for the League of Human Rights, (B'nai Brith Canada - where he was recognized for his long standing service as a member); and the Standing Committee on Training and Education for the Metropolitan Toronto Police College.

Ron was also a Patron of the Red Door Project, an organization of family shelters. He has received a Board of Directors Award, in recognition of contributions to end violence towards women and children, by the Yellow Brick House, a family shelter in Newmarket, Ontario. Ron created a program at the Bellwood Health Services for Addiction & Recovery for 27 years.

### **Awards:**

Ron has been honoured with the Title of Chevalier Du France, being knighted in France and was titled 'Commander for Ontario'. He was honoured with the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Awards for contributions to community. In 2014 Ron was the recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award, from the Black History Month Committee. He was also given a Grant of Arms by the Governor General of Canada.

For his contributions to world peace and international goodwill, he has been awarded the Mayors Award by the Mayor of Nobeoka, Japan, the Mayor of Assisi, Tuscany, Italy and the Mayor of Wavrechain-Sous-Denain, France. He has also been honoured by the Governor of Yervean, Armenia.

In 2005, he was Head Coach of the Canadian Karate Team competing at the 17<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah Games in Israel. The 14 member team was the most successful in Canadian history to that date, bringing home 16 medals.

He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ju Jutsu International Federation in Greece in 2004, which is recognized by the General Assembly of International Sports Federations and the World Games Committee.

**Martial Arts:**

Ron Yamanaka is the highest ranked genealogical, ancestral and traditional Martial Arts Master in Canada, holding the highest possible ranks in Chinese Kung Fu; Japanese Ju Jitsu and Okinawa Goju Ryu Karate.

He is the only person in Canada to be ranked to the level of Master Teacher by the late Uncle of the Emperor of Japan, Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Ron was ranked by his Grand Master David Chong, founder of the Canadian Karate Kung Fu Association, to the rank of 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt - the highest rank attainable in the Martial Arts.

He is responsible for bringing traditional Japanese Martial Arts to Canada. Ron Yamanaka is known as the Father of Okinawa Goju Ryu in Canada, a 500 year old style of Karate.

Ron has taught over 100,00 students in over 22 countries in Classical Martial Arts. He has trained military and police services in England; Ireland; France; Italy; USA; Israel; Singapore; India; Belgium; Norway; Sweden and Slovenia.