OHS Dorothy Duncan Award for Leadership in Heritage Award Winner: Dr. Helene Moussa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The OHS Honours and Awards committee is pleased to present the 2026 Dorothy Duncan Award for Leadership in Heritage to Dr. Helene Moussa. The Dorothy Duncan Award is presented to an individual or organization that has shown exceptional leadership in public history education or programming in Ontario.

Dr. Moussa was involved in the Coptic Museum of Canada when it was opened to the public in 2000, when she first served as an Interpreter, then the Volunteers Coordinator and between 2005 to 2025 as its Volunteer Curator. For twenty-five years, Dr. Moussa devoted countless hours to building collections, researching artifacts, designing exhibitions, and developing educational programs.

She led the organization in developing travelling exhibitions reflecting the rich history of Copts in Canada and published dozens of articles and reviews in publications like *the Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies,* and in books, chapters published by the American University in Cairo Press. In addition to her curatorial and scholarly work, Dr. Moussa has demonstrated exceptional leadership in fostering community engagement. She has helped create programming that reaches a wide audience—including children and young people—through workshops in art, music, and storytelling. These initiatives encourage younger generations to connect with their history in meaningful ways, ensuring continuity of knowledge within the community.



The OHS Dorothy Duncan Award was presented at the 2026 OHS Awards Ceremony on November 14, 2026 at the Historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale, Toronto, Ontario. Left to right: OHS Awards Committee Co-Chair Hans Bathija and award winner Helene Moussa.

Dr. Moussa's leadership has inspired others to participate in heritage work. She has created new opportunities for volunteers, researchers, and community members to contribute to the Coptic Museum's mission.

The Awards Committee congratulates Dr. Helene Moussa on this well-deserved honour and extends sincere appreciation for her exceptional contributions to Ontario's heritage sector.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards/ or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-Ontario Historical Society-

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