



## **MARK SAMUEL GOLD MEDAL AWARD**



*Photo Credit: FEI/Richard Juilliant*

The Equestrian Canada (EC) executive is proud to present Mark Samuel of Mississauga, ON, with the 2019 Gold Medal Award. The most prestigious of the EC National Awards, the Gold Medal is only awarded when the EC President and Board consider the recipient to have met or exceeded a set of criteria that includes longtime service as a builder of EC, and outstanding accomplishment as a competitor representing Canada on the world stage.

With a depth of experience in sport, business and governance that he has generously applied to furthering equestrian sport in Canada, Mark certainly checked all the boxes as a Gold Medal recipient.

His long list of accomplishments in the saddle include riding for the Canadian Show Jumping Team at the 2002 FEI World Equestrian Games in Jerez, ESP, and the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, DOM. Outside of the saddle, Mark has built a prolific business career, and is the Past President and CEO of Samuel Manu-Tech Inc., and current Chairman of the Samuel Group of Companies - comprised of an integrated network of metal manufacturing, processing and distribution divisions with more than 4,800 employees and 100 facilities. Plus, he is the current CEO of Sam-Son Farm, which has produced and trained champion Thoroughbreds for over four decades, earning 70+ Sovereign Awards, plus five Queen's Plate titles.

EC is grateful to be a beneficiary of Mark's equestrian and business talent and his generosity as a long-time volunteer. In fact, Mark co-founded Jump Canada (JC) in 2004, and remained a key member of the JC Board and subsequent EC Jumping Committee for over 15 years. During that



time he spearheaded many key initiatives, including the JC Hall of Fame and JC Bursary, and helped to build and support EC programs and initiatives for jumping athletes across the country. Mark has also been instrumental to the sport on a provincial level as a co-founder of the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association (OHJA) and past Director of Ontario Equestrian (OE).

Mark has also been a tireless contributor on the international equestrian scene, dedicating his time and expertise to the sport on a global scale. He was unanimously elected FEI Group IV Chair in 2012, responsible for directing the development of equestrian sport for 11 North American and Caribbean countries, and was re-elected as Chair for an additional four-year term in 2016. In 2017, Mark was elected FEI Second Vice-President for a term of one year and was re-elected as FEI Vice President in 2018.

In addition to his main FEI roles, Mark has been an invaluable member of multiple working groups and committees, including the FEI Officials Working Group, tasked in 2016 with providing analysis and discussion on issues pertaining to officials, from education to age limit withdrawal. In 2018 he was part of a temporary Endurance Committee, taking on the vital role of facilitating communication between the Committee and the FEI Bureau during a review of the discipline in an effort to urgently assess the issues affecting endurance and identify the most effective way to bring the sport back to its roots.

Most recently, Mark was called on to support the FEI's COVID-19 task forces, sitting on each of the discipline-specific groups to help evaluate the impact of the pandemic on the FEI Calendar and make recommendations on how the FEI can address them. Mark has a history of stepping up in difficult times, having co-founded the Caribbean Equine Relief Fund in 2017, raising approximately \$200,000 USD toward relief efforts for equines and equestrians in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

EC is grateful for Mark's countless contributions and tireless efforts on behalf of equestrian sport in Canada and around the globe, and honoured to add his name to the list of prestigious recipients of the Gold Medal Award.