



NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUE

Nurses Association of New Brunswick • L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Nouveau-Brunswick

EMBARGO: MAY 30, 2007, 7 P.M.

SEVEN NURSES TO BE HONOURED

BY NURSES ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK

FREDERICTON, 29 May 2007 – The Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) honored seven nurses at an awards banquet held today at the Delta Fredericton, Fredericton, during ceremonies held in conjunction with its annual general meeting and conference.

Life Membership

Sr. Ernestine LaPlante, Bathurst, was awarded the NANB's highest recognition, that of a Life Membership, for her contributions to nursing, to the New Brunswick health care system and to the countless clients she has cared for during her long and distinguished career.

Over the years, Sr. LaPlante has been active in her professional Association at the regional, provincial, and national levels and has worked as a general duty nurse, director of nursing and educator. Sr. LaPlante was instrumental in establishing a Parish Nursing Ministry in the Bathurst area and since 1997 has been working within the Ministry helping meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of clients in her community.

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award

Marina LeBlanc, Memramcook, is the 2007 recipient of an Excellence in Clinical Practice Award for fostering excellence in clinical practice and for her significant contributions to nursing.

Currently employed at the Georges-L. Dumont Hospital, Ms. LeBlanc's selection for this award is indicative of her commitment to meeting patient needs and providing quality nursing care. She is seen by her peers as a leader, a mentor, an innovator and an achiever who exhibits a high degree of professionalism.

Award of Merit: Nursing Practice

Linda Varner, Memramcook, has been selected as the recipient of the "Award of Merit: Nursing Practice" for 2007. Ms. Varner, who is employed by the Dr. Georges-L. Dumont Hospital, was instrumental in the creation of a breast screening clinic for the Moncton area and currently works in the oncology department coordinating breast screening through telemedicine for the Beauséjour Regional Health Authority as well as Regions 5, 6, and 7.

Recognized at the provincial and national levels for her expertise in the field of oncology, Ms. Varner has been speaking on this subject to health care professionals and the general public throughout the province since 1992.

Award of Merit: Administration

Geri Geldart, Fredericton, is the recipient of the 2007 “Award of Merit: Administration.” The award recognizes her work in introducing innovative concepts in dealing with human resource challenges within the River Valley Health Authority. As vice-president, hospital care and chief nursing officer, she has demonstrated excellence in nursing administration and in her ability to balance the dual responsibility of leadership for hospital-based programs and the development, monitoring and evaluation of nursing practice.

That many of Ms. Geldart’s strategies for recruitment and retention and fostering excellence in nursing practice have been adopted in other regional health authorities is a testament to her tireless work and support for her colleagues.

Award of Merit: Education

Nancy Logue, Saint John, has been singled out for her commitment to excellence in nursing education and will receive a 2007 “Award of Merit: Education.” Ms. Logue demonstrates excellence as a nurse educator through her breadth of experience, feedback from colleagues and students and her commitment to continuing self-development as a teacher.

A senior instructor on the UNBSJ faculty of nursing, Ms. Logue has garnered the respect of students for providing them with a high level of support while maintaining rigorous standards of nursing education. She is a role model and mentor to students and colleagues.

Award of Merit: Research

Natalie Boivin, Bathurst, was awarded the 2007 “Award of Merit: Research,” for outstanding achievement in enhancing nursing knowledge through research. Her current research focus is on primary health care and how the health of communities can be improved through the application of research findings.

Ms. Boivin’s research achievements have been recognized at the local, provincial and national levels. She is a role model for the students she teaches and integrates the results of her research into her courses thereby contributing to the development of tomorrow’s nurse researchers.

Entry-Level Nurse Achievement Award

Karelle Robichaud, Moncton, was selected as the first recipient of the “Entry-Level Nurse Achievement Award” in recognition of her professionalism, consistent application of the nursing process in meeting the needs of clients, and positive attitude as a member of the health care team.

Ms. Robichaud, who is employed at the Dr. Georges-L. Dumond Hospital, began her nursing career in January 2006 and is currently working in nephrology. She is described by colleagues as energetic, analytical and resourceful in meeting patient's needs.

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick is a professional, regulatory body representing 8900 registered nurses and nurse practitioners. NANB is responsible for advancing and maintaining the standards of nursing in the province and for governing and regulating those offering nursing care.

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For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact:

George Bergeron

Manager, Communications and Membership Services

Tel.: (506) 459-2852 or E-mail: gbergeron@nanb.nb.ca

Tel.: (506) 451-7922 (during the conference June 1 and 2)