



NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

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

NURSES ASSOCIATION HAND OUT EIGHT AWARDS DURING 89TH ANNUAL MEETING

Fredericton, 1 June 2005 — The Nurses Association of New Brunswick recognized six registered nurses and two members of the media at an awards banquet held earlier today in conjunction with its 89th annual meeting taking place at the Delta Hotel, Fredericton, June 1 and 2.

Life Membership — **Louise Lambert, St. Andrews**

Louise Lambert, a long-time resident of Deer Island, now residing in St. Andrews has been awarded a life membership, the Association's highest award of distinction. Mrs. Lambert operated the first Red Cross Nursing Station on Deer Island following graduation in 1947. For many years, she was the only provider of health care services delivering babies, living with families to nurse their dying loved ones and responding to emergency situations. She is remembered in her community in the area of health as a primary provider of care and as an educator to the public on health related issues.

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award — **Chandra Leavitt, Chamcook**

Chandra Leavitt has been awarded the prestigious Excellence in Clinical Practice Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of nursing practice. Chandra began her career at the Charlotte County Hospital and after obtaining a baccalaureate in nursing in 1998 became involved in community health promotion. For Ms. Leavitt, the process of encouraging and acting as a catalyst in community health promotion became a priority. The many projects she initiated were founded on the genuine belief in the power and capabilities of children of becoming the portal to a healthy society. Since 2000, she has been the public health nurse co-ordinator of the healthy learners program for School District 10.

Award of Merit – **Direct Care — Kim Arsenault, Miramichi**

Kim Arsenault is recognized as an expert in issues related to dementia and nursing care in long-term care setting having worked at the Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home, Miramichi, for over 14 years. During this time, Ms. Arsenault became a key player in changing the care of residents affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. She was instrumental in the development of policies, guidelines and criteria for the care of these residents. This work evolved into a nursing unit where family and residents feel welcomed and cared for in a home setting. She is a trainer for the Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick offering care givers workshops on nursing care to the client with dementia.

Award of Merit – **Administration — Barbara McGill, Saint John**

Barbara McGill, vice-president and chief nursing officer, is the recipient of an Award of Merit for her leadership in profession nursing at the Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation where she is involved with regional directors in developing a plan for the integration and coordination of care and Services. She is committed to the advancement of the nursing profession and the development of a professional practice model. Ms. McGill is a surveyor with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation, an adjunct professor of nursing UNBSJ, chairperson of the Nursing Resources and Advisory Committee to the Minister of Health and Wellness and president, Academy of Canadian Executive Nurses.

Award of Merit— Research — Dr. Marilyn Hodgins, Fredericton

Currently associate professor in the University of New Brunswick faculty of Nursing, Fredericton, Marilyn Hodgins has made an impressive contribution to curriculum development, demonstrating a capacity to understand learner needs, an uncommon willingness to learn new technologies, and a commitment to high scholarly standards. The recipient of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award, Dr. Hodgins has adapted quantitative research methods and an applied statistics course to Web modules as well as teleconference discussions, a challenge seen as not feasible by many expert teachers. She is currently the principal investigator on a study that compares the use of formal and informal emergency health resources by rural and urban Canadians.

Award of Merit – Education — Jeannette LeBlanc, Moncton

An educator and former director of the Université de Moncton school of nursing, Jeannette LeBlanc has over 30 years of nursing education experience. She is a pioneer in the delivery of distance education and developed four courses which became available to students outside of large urban centres. Mrs. LeBlanc expertise is in the area of the family and young children. She developed a community focused program designed for expectant parents. On the international front, Mrs. LeBlanc has organized clinical practicums for nursing students in both Haiti and Senegal.

Media Awards — *Telegraph Journal*: Carl Davies, Fredericton and Sarah McGinnis, Saint John

The co-recipients of the 2005 Media Award, print category, authored a series of articles entitled "The Problem With Health Care." The six-part series was published in the spring of 2004. The articles explore a health care system in transition focusing on health spending, ambulance services, physician and nursing shortages, and rural hospital closures. They provide an inside look at how these changes were impacting health care professionals, what possible solutions could be brought forward to resolve issues, all the while giving a voice to healthcare personnel and patients to describe their first-hand experiences.

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick is a professional, regulatory body representing 8600 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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