The Nunavut Nurse

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Issue 2 May 2010

Nursing Week 2010
Nursing: You Can’t Live Without It!

As Nunavut celebrates National Nursing Week, it’s important to recognize the huge contribution nurses make to the health and well-being of Nunavummiut and our communities.

The commitment to numerous years of post-secondary education prepares nurses to be outstanding primary care providers at our health centres, public health offices and hospital.

Nurses are highly trained and skilled professionals who possess a unique knowledge-base in the health system.

The theme of this year’s Nursing Week, Nursing: You Can’t Live Without It! - reflects the importance of nurses and celebrates the largest group of health care providers in Canada.

Living without nurses in Nunavut is not even imaginable — the health care system is based on their skills.

It is important to recognize our nurses for being practitioners who are:

- Innovative
- Proficient
- Professional
- Hard working
- Dedicated
- Knowledgeable and
- Skilled

Healthy individuals make healthy communities. Thank you for going above and beyond the call of duty to keep Nunavut healthy.

Your commitment and dedication as a nurse in Nunavut is truly appreciated and celebrated this week. Thank you and happy Nurses Week!

Alex Campbell
Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services
### Awards of Excellence for Nursing

#### Criteria

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<th>Award of Excellence for Lifetime Achievement</th>
<th>Award of Excellence for Nursing Leadership</th>
<th>Award of Excellence for Nursing Practice</th>
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<td>The nominee must have worked in the previous calendar year as a GN nurse and demonstrated excellence in their commitment and dedication to the nursing profession. The nominee must have a minimum of 20 years nursing experience and at least seven years in Nunavut.</td>
<td>The nominee must have worked in the previous calendar year as a GN nurse and demonstrated excellence in leadership in nursing. This award recognizes nurses for formal or informal leadership.</td>
<td>The nominee must have worked in the previous calendar year as a GN nurse and demonstrated excellence in the role of nursing practice. Nursing practice is the actual provision of nursing skill and care to clients (individuals, families or communities.)</td>
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### And the 2010 nominees are...

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<td>Shirley Clarke</td>
<td>Maria Fraser</td>
<td>Mary Bender</td>
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<td>Anneliese Cusack</td>
<td>Barb Harvey</td>
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<td>Maria Fraser</td>
<td>Sharon Hunting</td>
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<td>Kristine Hutchison</td>
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<td>Nancy Merry</td>
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#### Selection Process

Annually, the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) will issue a call for nominations for the Awards of Excellence in Nursing. **Once nominations are received, the selection process begins:**

1. The CNO ensures that all nominations and nominees fit the criteria.
2. The nominees are notified of their nominations.
3. All identifiers from the nomination forms and letters are removed. The nominations are reviewed anonymously.
4. A decision committee is created to evaluate the nominations. The committee consists of four to six evaluators.
5. Each evaluator scores each nomination on a score of one to five. Afterwards, the individual scores are tallied for each nomination.
6. After the scores are tallied, the top scoring nominations for each award are discussed among the committee. The committee then reaches a consensus on the award winner.

**This year the review committee consisted of:**

1. Donna Andrews—Acting Director of Policy and Planning
2. Monique Charron—Executive Advisor to DM
3. Pam Coulter—Director of Communications
4. Shawn Grossner—Nursing Recruitment and Retention Specialist
5. Misty Malott—Project Manager Nursing Education—Research to Action

**Congratulations to all the nominees!**
And the recipients are...

**Award of Excellence for Lifetime Achievement**

Maria Palmira Fraser was born in Kenya where she received her elementary and high school education. In 1971, she began religious training in Italy. In 1980, she completed her Nursing, Public Health and Midwifery training in the United Kingdom.

After working as a nurse in Italy, Maria returned to Kenya to work as a volunteer Registered Nurse and Midwife. She spent seven years working in Kenya before immigrating to British Columbia.

In 1991, Maria began working in the Northwest Territories and then Nunavut. She has worked in Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Baker Lake and, for the past 19 years, Maria has worked in Repulse Bay.

The primary focus of Maria’s work is empowering community members through health promotion.

**Award of Excellence for Nursing Leadership**

Barbara Harvey graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing from University of Manitoba in 1984. After practicing in Winnipeg, she moved to Coppermine, NWT to work as a Community Health Nurse (CHN). She worked as the Supervisor of Health Programs in Kugluktuk for many years prior to moving to the CHN Specialist position. She is also currently acting in the Director of Professional Practice position and Registrar of Health Professionals for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Barbara has served as a Director on the Board of the RNANT/NU and is currently serving as the Vice President for Nunavut. She previously completed terms on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Nurse Protective Society and the advisory committee for Canadian Nursing Association’s (CAN) Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative.

In 2008, Barbara was the recipient of the CNA’s Nurse to Know Centennial Achievement Award for recognition of leadership and exceptional contribution to the health of Canadian Citizens. In 2010, she completed her Masters of Nursing and successfully challenged the Nurse Practitioner registration in Ontario.

**Award of Excellence for Nursing Practice**

After several northern stints over the years, Mary Bender decided to accept an eight-month nursing position in Pangnirtung as the Nurse-In-Charge. Somehow, this turned into eight years at the clinic, followed by eight years working at the Baffin Regional Office as the Clinical Supervisor of Community Health Nurses.

Before working in Baffin Region, Mary taught Pediatrics and Obstetrics at Dalhousie University in Halifax and worked in northern communities throughout Manitoba, Ontario and Baffin. Like other northern nurses, Mary feels that the challenges and ability to make a difference has made her work in Nunavut very rewarding.

In 2009, Mary played an instrumental role in the revision of the new Community Health Nursing Policy and Procedure manual. Her clinical expertise was exemplary in the drafting of our new best practice guidelines for community health.
Community Health Nursing—Revised Policies and Procedures
The first major revision of the Community Health Nursing Administration Manual is being released shortly. The manual is the result of many years of vision and many thousands of hours of hard work in 2009/10.

This is the first time there has been a comprehensive review and revision of nursing policies in Nunavut. Most of our present policy manuals were inherited from the Northwest Territories and have not been updated in more than ten years.

This has been a project that has benefitted from a significant commitment from many nurses from across the territory. As it reaches completion, we thank the hardworking people who have contributed their efforts to this project. These new and updated policies, standards and best practices will support nurses in delivering the best nursing care possible within the territory.

Research to Action: Building Nursing Capacity in Nunavut
The Government of Nunavut’s Department of Health and Social Services, the Canadian Federation of Nursing Unions, the Nunavut Employees Union, Qikiqtani General Hospital and Nunavut Arctic College have come together to pilot a project to develop nursing capacity within the territory.

Goals and Objectives:
- To maintain and develop opportunities for front line nurses to develop new clinical skills and expand their competencies.
- To provide enhanced critical care training that is relevant to the needs of nurses at Qikiqtani General Hospital.
- To provide opportunities for new and current nurses to be mentored.
- To provide a smooth transition to entry to practice in a hospital setting for new graduate nurses.
- To develop greater capacity for nursing leadership, professional development and support in Nunavut.
- To build collaborative relationships and resource sharing between partners.

This project will provide support to nurses throughout the territory and we look forward to your feedback.

This is your newsletter!
We welcome and appreciate your input into its content. Please send story ideas, quotes, articles, photographs and feedback (good or bad) to:
Health and Social Services Communications