



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nominations open for 2017 BC Health Care Awards
Event recognizes outstanding achievements in health care delivery across the province

VANCOUVER – Nominations are now open for the 11th annual *BC Health Care Awards*. The awards celebrate successes and achievements in BC's health care system, and recognize people who provide outstanding care and support. Awards are for projects that improve health care delivery, and for individuals who make a positive impact and inspire those around them.

Nominations are accepted online at BCHealthCareAwards.ca until February 24, 2017. Health care colleagues and members of the public – including patients and their families – have the opportunity to recognize and thank health care employees in their communities by submitting a nomination.

“The awards are a great opportunity to recognize some of the incredible people who work hard to ensure that British Columbians receive world-class, patient-centred health care services each and every day,” said Health Minister Terry Lake. “These professionals have also made our province a leader in medical research and innovation.”

Heather Dunne, Site Manager at Ladysmith Primary Health Care Centre, and Dr. E. Jane Garland, a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at BC Children's Hospital shared the honour of being named Provincial Health Care Hero at the 2016 awards gala.

Throughout her almost 50 years as a nurse, Dunne has pushed the boundaries of nursing, especially with regards to championing the role of the Nurse Practitioner and working to improve both access and the quality of health care service provided to remote and isolated communities, including First Nations.

As a child and adolescent psychiatrist specializing in mood and anxiety disorders, Dr. Garland inspires her patients to develop their own strengths and in doing so has changed the lives of thousands of children and young adults.

To learn more about these award recipients and other previous winners, visit the *BC Health Care Awards YouTube channel*.

Since the awards were launched by the Health Employers Association of BC in 2007, more than 200 Gold Apples and Awards of Merit have been awarded to health employees who are improving BC's health care system.

Visit BCHealthCareAwards.ca and follow the awards on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) to learn more. Winners will be announced at a luncheon in Vancouver on June 26, 2017.

The 2017 *BC Health Care Awards* are generously supported by Healthcare Benefit Trust and Pacific Blue Cross.

The Health Employers Association of British Columbia (HEABC) is the accredited bargaining agent for most publicly funded health employers in the province, representing denominational, proprietary and affiliate health employers, as well as the province's six health authorities. HEABC coordinates the labour relations interests of 250 publicly funded health care employers and negotiates five major provincial agreements covering more than 120,000 unionized health care employees.

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