



# Media Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Nominations open for 2015 BC Health Care Awards

VANCOUVER – Nominations are now open for the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 given in 11 categories 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](http://BCHealthCareAwards.ca) until February 27, 2015. Anyone can nominate, providing health care colleagues and members of the public – including patients and their families – the opportunity to recognize and thank health care employees in their communities by submitting a nomination.

“British Columbians receive some of the best care in Canada and we have some of the best health outcomes as a result,” said Health Minister Terry Lake. “The *BC Health Care Awards* showcase just a few of the great things happening in our health care system, and offer thanks to individual employees and teams who are making a real difference in the lives of British Columbians.”

Dr. Marius Pienaar, a Prince Rupert Obstetrician/Gynecologist was a 2014 recipient in the Health Care Hero category. A staunch advocate for women’s health and rural/remote care, Dr. Pienaar goes above and beyond routine care. Some of his achievements include championing the North Coast Maternity Clinic to address physician shortages and improve prenatal care, introducing changes to the operating room to bring cutting-edge technologies to a rural setting, and acting as a recruitment and retention ambassador for the region.

“Winning a *BC Health Care Award* was a very proud moment for me,” said Dr. Pienaar. “I don’t do this for accolades but it was incredibly humbling to be recognized by my peers and to know that my contributions are having a positive impact in the community.”

Since the awards were launched by the Health Employers Association of BC in 2007, 89 Gold Apples and 70 Awards of Merit have been awarded to health employees who are improving BC’s health care system.

Visit [BCHealthCareAwards.ca](http://BCHealthCareAwards.ca), [Twitter.com/BCHealthAwards](https://twitter.com/BCHealthAwards) or [Facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards](https://facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards) to learn more. Winners will be announced at a gala luncheon in Vancouver on June 22, 2015.

The 2015 *BC Health Care Awards* are generously supported by Great-West Life, Healthcare Benefit Trust and Pacific Blue Cross.

*The Health Employers Association of BC (HEABC) coordinates the human resource and labour relations interests of 250 publicly funded health care employers in British Columbia and represents denominational, proprietary and affiliate health employers, as well as the province’s six health authorities.*

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