



# Media Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **2015 BC Health Care Awards winners revealed**

VANCOUVER – Winners of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual *BC Health Care Awards* were announced today at a gala luncheon in Vancouver. Twelve Gold Apple winners and seven Award of Merit recipients were honoured. Award winners are remarkable health employees who are making a positive impact on BC's health system.

Presented by the Health Employers Association of British Columbia (HEABC), the *BC Health Care Awards* celebrate successes and achievements in BC's health care system, and recognize people providing outstanding care and support. Awards are given in 11 categories to projects improving health care delivery, and to people making a positive impact and inspiring those around them.

"British Columbia's health care system is an internationally-respected provider of top-level health care and ground-breaking, innovative research," said Health Minister Terry Lake. "This is thanks to the passion, pride and commitment demonstrated by health care employees working in all corners of the province. I congratulate all this year's winners and thank them for all that they do for the people of BC."

The awards ceremony concluded with the naming of the 2015 Provincial Health Care Hero – Dawn Nedzelski, Chief Professional Practice & Chief Nursing Officer for Island Health. Known for her "unique ability to bring people together and to get the work done in a way that puts people first," Dawn has shown an unwavering commitment to her patients and the nursing profession throughout her career as a nurse and health care leader.

"This year's winners are outstanding examples of innovation, leadership and caring," said HEABC President & CEO David Logan. "I am thrilled that through this awards program we have the opportunity to celebrate successes in BC health care, share best practices and reward health care heroes from around the province."

The 2015 Gold Apple winners are:

#### **Provincial Health Care Hero & Health Care Hero – Island Health**

Dawn Nedzelski – Chief Professional Practice & Chief Nursing Officer

#### **Health Care Hero – Affiliate**

Frannie Cruise – Recreation Therapist (Centre for Child Development, Surrey)

#### **Health Care Hero – Fraser Health**

Marika Sandrelli – Addiction Knowledge Exchange Leader (Mental Health & Substance Use Program)

#### **Health Care Hero – Interior Health**

Patrice Gordon – Nurse Practitioner (Community Integrated Health Services, Cariboo Region)

#### **Health Care Hero – Northern Health**

Heather Floris – Head Nurse (St. John Hospital, Vanderhoof)

#### **Health Care Hero – Provincial Health Services Authority**

Amy Pezzente – Eating Disorder Peer Support Worker (Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre, BC Children's Hospital)

#### **Health Care Hero – Vancouver Coastal Health**

Ian Denison – Physical Therapy Equipment Specialist (GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre)



## BC HEALTH CARE AWARDS

### **Top Innovation – Affiliate**

Rosewood Manor (Richmond) – Enriching the Quality of Care for Dementia Residents

### **Top Innovation – Health Authority**

Fraser Health – Implantable Cardiac Electrical Device Project: From Complexity to Optimization

### **Workplace Health Innovation**

Island Health (Nanaimo Regional General Hospital) – Integrating Violence Prevention Policies into Practice

### **Collaborative Solutions**

BC Provincial Blood Coordinating Office (Provincial Health Services Authority) – Hospital Inventory Optimization Project

Awards of Merit were also presented in each of the four project-oriented award categories. This year's Awards of Merit recipients are:

### **Top Innovation – Affiliate**

- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), BC Division – Bounce Back: Reclaim Your Health

### **Top Innovation – Health Authority**

- BC Children's Hospital (Provincial Health Services Authority) – ON TRAC (Transitioning Responsibly to Adult Care) Youth Transition Initiative
- Vancouver Coastal Health– Emergency Department (ED) iCare

### **Workplace Health Innovation**

- Fraser Health – Site Security Incident Reporting System
- Northern Health & Interior Health – Duty-to-Accommodate Pilot Project: A Collaboration with HR Operations & Disability Management

### **Collaborative Solutions**

- BC Emergency Health Services – Decreasing Lead Time for RED (High Acuity/Emergent) Inter-Facility Transfers
- Vancouver Coastal Health – Antimicrobial Stewardship Program: Innovation, Research, Education & Safety (ASPIRES) Team

Since the awards launched in 2007, 101 Gold Apples and 77 Awards of Merit have been awarded to health employees who are improving BC's health care system and patient care.

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

Visit [BCHealthCareAwards.ca](http://BCHealthCareAwards.ca), [Twitter.com/BCHealthAwards](https://twitter.com/BCHealthAwards), [Facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards](https://facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards) or [YouTube/BCHealthCareAwards](https://youtube.com/BCHealthCareAwards) to learn more about the 2015 awards winners.

*The Health Employers Association of BC (HEABC) coordinates the human resource and labour relations interests of more than 230 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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