

2026 PROFESSIONAL NURSING AWARDS RECIPIENT BACKGROUNDER

Advocacy Award

Recipient: Svetlana Gussakovsky

Organization: Shared Health / Clinical Informatics

Svetlana Gussakovsky is a Registered Nurse and Clinical Informatics leader with more than 30 years of experience improving patient care and reducing health inequities across Manitoba. She is recognized for leading major improvements in electronic patient record documentation and for her collaborative leadership connecting clinicians and health systems to support safer, more equitable care.

Clinical Nursing Practice – Acute Care Award

Recipient: Erin Hertz

Organization: Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA)

Erin Hertz has more than 22 years of experience in rural acute care, nursing education, mentorship, and policy development. She is recognized for delivering compassionate, patient- and family-centred care in resource-limited settings and for advancing evidence-based nursing practice in rural Manitoba.

Administration Award

Recipient: Louise Segui

Organization: CancerCare Manitoba

Louise Segui is known for her thoughtful leadership and commitment to creating supportive, inclusive teams at CancerCare Manitoba. She is especially recognized for helping internationally educated nurses feel welcomed and supported while fostering collaboration, safety, and high-quality patient care.

Administration Award

Recipient: Allyson Cooper

Organization: RRC Polytech Nursing Simulation Education

Allyson Cooper is a Certified Simulation Nurse Educator and respected leader in simulation-based nursing education. She is known for creating realistic, supportive learning environments that help nursing students build confidence, clinical judgment, and critical thinking skills.

Administration Award

Recipient: Fleur McEvoy

Organization: University of Manitoba College of Nursing Midwifery Program

Fleur McEvoy has played a key role in advancing nursing and midwifery education through collaborative and visionary leadership. Her work spans education, mentorship, and research, with a strong focus on evidence-based practice and culturally responsive care.

Education Award

Recipient: Janeth Sawatzky

Organization: RRC Polytech

Janeth Sawatzky is recognized for strengthening nursing education at RRC Polytech through her work advancing critical thinking and clinical judgment in nursing students. She is also known for supporting faculty development and building strong, collaborative learning environments.

Education Award

Recipient: Jacqueline Santiago

Organization: RRC Polytech

Jacqueline Santiago is an innovative nursing educator recognized for strengthening palliative care education and clinical judgment in nursing students. Her teaching combines case-based learning and reflection to help students develop professionalism, compassion, and critical thinking skills.

Education Award

Recipient: Tiffany Barker

Organization: Prairie Mountain Health

Tiffany Barker is a respected Clinical Nurse Educator with Prairie Mountain Health known for her commitment to inclusive, evidence-informed education and staff development. She is also recognized for supporting quality improvement initiatives and advancing nursing education standards across the region.

Education Award

Recipient: Stephanie Nunes

Organization: University of Manitoba

Stephanie Nunes is a nursing educator at the University of Manitoba who is recognized for bringing current clinical practice into the classroom to prepare students for real-world nursing. She is known for using engaging, evidence-informed teaching approaches that strengthen clinical judgment, confidence, and holistic care.

Education Award

Recipient: Kimberly Sefton

Organization: University of Manitoba

Kimberly Sefton is recognized for her leadership and innovation in nursing education at the University of Manitoba. She is widely respected for mentoring clinical educators and improving orientation, resources, and support for clinical teaching teams.

Education Award

Recipient: Shakerah Jones Hall

Organization: University of Manitoba

Shakerah Jones Hall is an accomplished nursing educator known for creating engaging, evidence-informed learning experiences that support strong clinical judgment and critical thinking. She is also recognized for her leadership in equity and inclusion initiatives supporting Black and racialized nursing students.

Education Award

Recipient: Lisa Banman

Organization: University of Manitoba

Lisa Banman is recognized for excellence in nursing education, curriculum innovation, and student success at the University of Manitoba. Drawing on extensive clinical experience in high-acuity care, she helps prepare students for safe, confident nursing practice.

Education Award

Recipient: Karen Di Pietro

Organization: RRC Polytech Clinical Nursing Education

Karen Di Pietro is a respected clinical educator known for mentoring and supporting clinical instructors across nursing education programs. She is recognized for fostering professional growth, effective teaching strategies, and strong onboarding support for new educators.

Research Award

Recipient: Dr. Lisa Knisley

Organization: University of Manitoba / Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba

Dr. Lisa Knisley is an Assistant Professor with the University of Manitoba College of Nursing and a Clinician Scientist at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. A national leader in pediatric nursing research, she is recognized for advancing knowledge translation and improving how research informs pediatric care in practice.

Legacy Award

Recipient: Kelly Hinds

Organization: Digital Health and Nursing Leadership

Kelly Hinds has dedicated more than 40 years to nursing practice, leadership, and digital health innovation. She is recognized for helping shape health information systems that support safe, person-centred care while strengthening nursing's role in health system transformation.

Legacy Award

Recipient: Tracey Fallak

Organization: RRC Polytech / Nursing Leadership

Tracey Fallak has spent 40 years advancing nursing education and leadership in Manitoba through her work at RRC Polytech and within the profession. A founding member of ARNM, she is recognized for mentoring educators and strengthening nursing leadership development provincially and nationally.

Legacy Award

Recipient: Dr. Laverne Sturtevant

Organization: RRC Polytech Health System Leadership and Indigenous Health

Dr. Laverne Sturtevant has nearly 30 years of experience in clinical practice, Indigenous health, education, and executive leadership. She is recognized for advancing culturally safe care, health system improvement, and equitable access to care across Manitoba.

Legacy Award

Recipient: Dr. Lynn Scruby

Organization: University of Manitoba Community Health and Nursing Research

Dr. Lynn Scruby has spent more than 40 years advancing health promotion, community-based research, and equity-focused nursing practice. She is widely respected for her work supporting marginalized populations and for mentoring graduate nursing students and emerging researchers.

Outstanding Nursing Unit, Program, or Interprofessional Team Award

Recipient: Beausejour District Hospital Acute Care Team

Organization: Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority

The Beausejour District Hospital Acute Care Team provides emergency, acute care, rehabilitation, and alternate level of care services in the Interlake-Eastern region. The team is recognized for its collaborative approach and commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive learning environment for students and health-care learners.

Outstanding Nursing Unit, Program, or Interprofessional Team Award

Recipient: Keewatin Tribal Council Nursing Team

Organization: Keewatin Tribal Council

The Keewatin Tribal Council Nursing Team delivers essential nursing care to 11 First Nations communities, including remote and fly-in communities in northern Manitoba. The team is recognized for building trusted community relationships and advocating for equitable access to health services in challenging practice environments.

Outstanding Nursing Unit, Program, or Interprofessional Team Award

Recipient: PMH Western Manitoba Cancer Centre

Organization: Prairie Mountain Health / CancerCare Manitoba

The PMH Western Manitoba Cancer Centre team provides collaborative, multidisciplinary cancer care through a partnership between Prairie Mountain Health and CancerCare Manitoba. The team is recognized for its seamless coordination of patient care and its supportive, team-based approach to oncology services.

Outstanding Nursing Unit, Program, or Interprofessional Team Award

Recipient: UCN Nursing Faculty

Organization: University College of the North

The nursing faculty team at University College of the North is recognized for its strong collaboration, adaptability, and commitment to nursing education in northern Manitoba. Their work plays a critical role in preparing nurses for practice in northern and Indigenous communities.

Outstanding Nursing Unit, Program, or Interprofessional Team Award

Recipient: St. Boniface Antepartum & Gynecology Unit

Organization: St. Boniface Hospital

The St. Boniface Antepartum & Gynecology Unit provides compassionate care for patients experiencing high-risk pregnancies, perinatal loss, post-operative recovery, and complex gynecological needs. The team is recognized for its collaborative culture, clinical expertise, and commitment to patient- and family-centred care.

Outstanding Nursing Unit, Program, or Interprofessional Team Award

Recipient: Misericordia Personal Care Home

Organization: Misericordia Health Centre

The team at Misericordia Personal Care Home provides resident-centred care for older adults with complex health needs. They are recognized for fostering a supportive, collaborative environment focused on dignity, compassion, and quality of life for residents and families.

Outstanding Nursing Unit, Program, or Interprofessional Team Award
Recipient: Shared Health Alternative Integrated Accommodation Team
Organization: Shared Health

The Shared Health Alternative Integrated Accommodation Team is an interprofessional care team supporting clients with complex health and social needs during transitions from hospital to community. The team is recognized for its collaborative, culturally safe approach and strong partnerships with Indigenous and community organizations.