



# A Picture of Health

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B.C.'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH



*Health Minister Adrian Dix with the 2019 recipients at the Nursing Awards of Excellence.*

## Honouring the 2019 Nursing Awards of Excellence

Nursing professionals are among the most trusted in the health-care system supporting patients throughout the continuum of life. Regardless of the clinical environment, the importance of nursing can't be overstated – nursing professionals are integral to the success of multi-interdisciplinary teams.

Last December, Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) honoured the nursing community by recognizing the accomplishment of 18 individuals who are both dedicated and committed to their patients and are helping to transform the health care system.

“Recognizing the great work nurses have done is a high priority for NNPBC. Nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system. While we honour and value the work nurses do each day, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to acknowledge 18 exceptional nurses who have demonstrated the best of the profession over the past year,” said Jacquolynne Keath, NNPBC Board Chair.

The 2019 Nursing Awards of Excellence is the second award ceremony and continues to be a unique opportunity to showcase the unity in the profession by ensuring that all four nursing designations – Licensed Practical Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse and Registered Psychiatric Nurse – in British Columbia are recognized for their contributions to nursing and health care.

“The Nursing Awards of Excellence demonstrate the strength of the profession by showcasing nurses’ exemplary work across all designations, domains of practice and sectors. The event is a wonderful way for NNPBC to promote unity and collaboration across the nursing profession,” said Natasha Prodan-Bhalla, Chief Nurse and Professional Practice Officer in the Ministry of Health.

NNPBC honoured 18 exceptional professionals who have demonstrated excellence in nursing practice in eight categories:

1. **Lifetime achievement** - This award is presented to an LPN, NP, RN and/or RPN, either active or retired, who has made outstanding contributions to the nursing profession at provincial, national and/or international levels throughout their career. This is the most prestigious honour granted by NNPBC.
  - Kathleen Fyvie, NP
  - Morrie Steele, RN (retired), RPN (retired)
2. **Excellence in Advancing nursing knowledge and research** – This award is presented to nurses who have demonstrated excellence in nursing research. Recipients must demonstrate excellence in at least four areas. This includes acting as a role model, a mentor and consultant to foster the development of beginning nurse researchers, and providing evidence of external review (peer or otherwise) and evaluating the outcomes of completed research.
  - Lisa Bourque Bearskin, RN
  - Emily Jenkins, RN
  - Nelly Oelke, RN
3. **Excellence in nursing advocacy** - This award is presented to the nurse (or group of nurses) who has made outstanding efforts in advocating for health benefits to a specific group or in advocating for health system change.
  - Paisly Symenuk, RN
4. **Excellence in nursing education** - This award is presented to nurses who demonstrate excellence in nursing education in the nurses' own work settings (e.g., colleges, institutes, universities or health care agencies).
  - Sheila Epp, RN
  - Ranjit K. Dhari, RN

5. **Excellence in nursing leadership** - The winner demonstrates outstanding individual contributions in nursing leadership.
  - Sarah Foster, LPN
  - Brent Hobbs, RN
  - Minna Miller, NP
  - Carrie Murphy, NP
6. **Excellence in (LPN, NP, RN or RPN) practice** - This award is presented to nurses who demonstrate excellence in clinical practice within the scope of their specific regulatory designation. Recipients must demonstrate excellence in: Nursing knowledge, Clinical decision-making, and Professional accountability and responsibility.
  - Sian Bethan Roberts, RN
  - Angela Russolillo, RPN
7. **Innovation in nursing** - NNPBC defines innovation as doing things differently or doing different things in order to achieve large-scale or systemic change. This award is presented to the nurse who typically has a broad base of nursing experience in more than one domain of nursing (clinical practice, education, administration, research) and is recognized as an expert and innovator in their practice area. Possible areas of innovation could include significant practice changes, new approaches to health promotion or public health, technological or system innovations, introducing new ideas with the potential to change the way nursing takes leadership in an area of health care.
  - Barbara Pesut, RN
8. **Rising star** - This award is presented to a recently graduated nurse entering into entry-level practice within five years of the deadline for NNPBC award nominations. The recipients will have exceeded the expectations of their employers or colleagues and demonstrate excellence in the nursing profession within their respective designation.
  - Lauren Colby, NP
  - Fin Gareau, NP
  - Rachel Kathleen Walker, RPN

Congratulations to all the 2019 recipients!

Check back over the next couple months as *A Picture of Health* profiles some of the 2019 recipients and their work.

For more information about the 2019 Nurse in Excellence Awards, visit [NNPBC](https://www.nnpbc.ca).