



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nominations open for 2016 BC Health Care Awards
Event recognizes outstanding achievements in health care delivery across the province

VANCOUVER – Nominations are open for the 10th annual *BC Health Care Awards*. The *BC Health Care 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 will be accepted online at BCHealthCareAwards.ca until February 26, 2016. 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.

“As we continue to invest in the health of all British Columbians and foster a system that is truly patient-centred, it’s important to recognize the contribution of health care professionals working to deliver extraordinary health care to the people of this province,” said the Health Minister Terry Lake. “British Columbia has among the best health care in the world, and for the past 10 years the *BC Health Care Awards* have showcased this in all corners of our province.”

Heather Floris, the Head Nurse covering a busy rural ER at St. John Hospital in Vanderhoof was Northern Health’s 2015 Health Care Hero winner. In addition to her tireless commitment to the staff, physicians and patients at St John Hospital, her dedication to the community is seen through countless volunteer hours.

“It was incredibly meaningful to win a *BC Health Care Award*,” said Heather. “I arrived in Vanderhoof in 1995 as a newly registered nurse, and to be recognized by my peers and the health care community 20 years later for helping people at their most vulnerable is truly rewarding – it’s the reason I became a nurse.”

To hear more about Heather’s story and the inspiring stories of all previous winners, visit our [YouTube channel](#).

Since the awards were launched by the Health Employers Association of BC in 2007, 101 Gold Apples and 77 Awards of Merit have been awarded to health employees who are improving BC’s health care system.

Visit BCHealthCareAwards.ca and follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) to learn more. Winners will be announced at a luncheon in Vancouver on June 27, 2016.

The 2016 *BC Health Care Awards* are generously supported by Great-West Life, 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 human resource and labour relations interests of more than 230 publicly funded health care employers and negotiates five major provincial agreements covering more than 115,000 unionized health care employees including nurses, health science professionals, physician residents and support workers in both facility and community settings.

Media contact

Anthony Boone

HEABC Director, Communications

604.714.2283 or Anthonyb@heabc.bc.ca