



NEWS RELEASE

Newfoundland and Labrador women honoured for their contribution to women's health

St. John's, June 19, 2006— The Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and the Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre co-hosted an evening celebration to honour the recipients of the Leadership Award for Women's Health in Atlantic Canada. Four women from Newfoundland and Labrador have been honoured with a Leadership Award for Women's Health from the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. These women were nominated by organizations and individuals within their communities for their contribution to improving women's health throughout the province, the region, and beyond.

The award winning nominees include a champion of mental health reform; an ardent advocate of women's involvement – and growth; a leader in cancer programming; and a clinic nurse whose door is always open.

"These award recipients have made a difference in the lives of women throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, says Barbara Clow, Executive Director of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. "As leaders in change, they remind us that women have been at the forefront as paid and unpaid caregivers, and as advocates struggling to challenge gender-blind policies, services and research to ensure that women receive their fair share of health benefits. While there is still lots of work to be done to ensure that health policies, services and programs are more responsive to the diversity of women's needs, it is essential that we take the time to celebrate and build on our successes."

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BACKGROUND

Leadership Award for Women's Health: Newfoundland and Labrador 2006

Moyra Buchan, former Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, St. John's

Moyra Buchan has been an active community advocate in the area of mental health and mental illness for many years. She has worked to make mental health reform a priority on the government's agenda and has mobilized consumer involvement through projects such as *The Consumer Self-help Networking Project* and *Speaking For Ourselves*. She developed community education about mental illness through video projects such as *Changing Minds* and *Depression Awareness for Youth* (which was given to all high schools in the province), and responded to the impact of the Cod Moratorium on families and communities through *A Needs Assessment for Community Self-Help* and *Building Helping Skills*, a training program which enabled people in communities to develop skills to provide help and support to others. She was also founding chair of the Community Alliance for Better Solutions, a broad coalition of community groups which addressed poverty, unemployment and other issues of social exclusion.

Flora Boyd, Teacher, Grand Falls – Windsor

Flora Boyd's battle for the rights of women, equal treatment, and recognition and support for women unable to speak for themselves is well-known within her home town of Grand Falls-Windsor. Her lifelong endeavors to motivate women to take control over their physical and reproductive health and to achieve their capacity in education, leadership, career direction, financial independence, social inclusion, and personal skills development have been successful at both an individual level – and a community level. At the age of 73, and now retired from teaching, Ms. Boyd is still an active contributor within her community.

Barbara Slattery, Cancer Care Volunteer, St. John's

Since September 1994, **Barbara Slattery** has volunteered with the Canadian Cancer Society, Newfoundland and Labrador Division. She established *Cansurmount* programs in many areas and trained volunteers for these groups. *Cansurmount* is an emotional support program for people living with cancer and their families. During Ms. Slattery's term as Chair of Patient Services for the Canadian Cancer Society, the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Treatment and Research Centre opened and a Personal Resource Room was established at the Centre. The Room provides wigs, turbans, and prostheses to patients. Ms. Slattery has volunteered one morning a week for the past 11 years.

Cherie Lee Campbell Oram, Nurse, Charlottetown, Labrador

Cherie Lee Campbell Oram is a registered nurse who has worked in many small rural communities from North to South on the Labrador Coast, and currently working in her home community of Charlottetown, Labrador serving at the local clinic. Women are very comfortable visiting the clinic and feel welcome. Here they share their health concerns at every level. Ms. Campbell Oram is currently enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner program to further develop and enhance her nursing skills. As a mother of three young children, Ms. Campbell Oram is actively involved in the community as a volunteer. She is a strong advocate in the areas of cervical and breast screening, and participates in many fund raising activities for various types of cancer. In addition to working full time and raising a family, she is a member of the Family Resource Centre, co-leads a Seniors Group, and leads a women's weight loss group which encourages healthy eating and exercise.