

**The CHAC  
2006 Citation Award Recipients  
Gerald G. Herkel  
Raymond Lafond  
Mary Pat Skene**

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Health Association of Canada, I have the pleasure and honour to present three distinguished recipients of the CHAC 2006 Performance Citation Award. The Citation Award is the highest distinction in Catholic health care in Canada. This year the CHAC convention explores leadership succession and its role in carrying forward the legacy of Catholic health care. This evening we honour three people who are shining examples of what it means to be imbued with the mission of Catholic health care. With passion and dedication, they have used their own unique gifts to sustain and further that mission in their respective provinces. Along the way, they sought innovative ways to ensure that Catholic health care organizations remain vibrant for future generations.

Tonight we are pleased to present the 2006 CHAC Performance Citation Award to Gerald G. Herkel from Burnaby, British Columbia; Raymond Lafond from Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Mary Pat Skene from Edmonton, Alberta.

**Gerald G. Herkel**

For over eighteen years, Gerald Herkel has been a fixture in faith-based health care in British Columbia. He served as administrator of Saint Michael's Centre until his retirement several months ago. He was Chair of the Catholic Health Association of British Columbia and has served in some capacity on the board of the provincial association for all but one of the past fourteen years. During that time he showed particular passion for revitalizing the association by forging closer ties with the Archdiocese of Vancouver and by establishing the position of a full time Executive Director. Gerald was the

founding President of the Denominational Health Association (DHA) and in that capacity became the chief negotiator of the Master Agreement with the Ministry of Health in BC. There would be no religious governance in BC had it not been for Gerald's vision and tenacity in challenging the provincial government to recognize the ownership and governance rights of faith based facilities. He also served for five years on the CHAC board, and was chair during the 1998-1999 term. He is presently on the board of the Burnaby Hospice Society.

Please welcome to the stage Gerald G. Herkel, a 2006 Performance Citation Award recipient.

**Raymond Lafond**

Raymond Lafond is a chartered accountant by profession and has been associated with the ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal since 1993. Since 2000 he has served as Executive Director of the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba (CHCM), overseeing nine organizations that were previously owned by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal and the Benedictine Sisters. In this capacity Raymond has created a positive milieu where the mission and spiritual values, not only become a way to serve patients and residents with compassion, but also provide administration with ways to govern justly.

Raymond has had to respond to new challenges as well. Serving as the Vice Chairperson of the Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba (IHCAM), as a board member of St. Boniface Hospital and as the treasurer of the Catholic Health Association of Manitoba, Raymond successfully advocated for the preservation

of faith-sponsored governance of health care organizations in the province of Manitoba. In these roles he is recognized not only for his leadership skills; his peers respect him as one who exemplifies the Christian values of kindness, compassion and justice. Raymond is continually sought after by individuals and organizations for guidance. Unfailingly and without question he gives of his time and energy.

Please welcome to the stage Raymond Lafond, a 2006 Performance Citation Award recipient.

### **Mary Pat Skene**

Mary Pat Skene is currently Executive Director of the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Alberta and also serves as board chairperson for both Youville Home in St. Albert and La Salle, "A Safe Place for Women and their Children". She brings 40 plus years of experience in promoting the mission and values of Catholic health care. This breadth of experience began in a very hands-on way, as a nurse, whose professional and personable gifts were soon recognized. From staff nurse in medical surgery and intensive care, she soon moved to supervisory and nursing instructor positions. As a nurse and a mother, she certainly knows how to do more than one thing at a time, and so it is not surprising that during this time, she also completed her Masters in Education at the University of Alberta. Following this came a host of positions, each demonstrating her talents and her growing commitment to Catholic health care; in each case calling her to assume greater responsibility. She held positions in: nursing operations; nursing research, development and education; as Vice President, Nursing at The Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton; Vice-President, Community Health at Caritas in Edmonton; and finally President and CEO of St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. She ended her full-time career as President & CEO of the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation. She served on the board of the CHAC from

1996 until 2001, and was chair from 1999 to 2000.

Please welcome to the stage Mary Pat Skene, a 2006 Performance Citation Award recipient.

\*\*\*

These three recipients have demonstrated a style of leadership that is not only decisive and effective, but also courageous and visionary. Mary Pat, Raymond, Gerry - you represent a new generation of Catholic health care leaders. As lay persons you received formation from Sisters. You learned your lessons well; you embraced the mission and took it to heart. Each of you all went beyond the call of duty to ensure that the great legacy which we share will remain a vibrant and defining feature of Canada's health care system. For these reasons, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the CHAC, I am pleased to induct you as recipients of the 2006 CHAC Performance Citation Award.