

**The CHAC
2007 Citation Award Recipients
Sr. Charlotte Vickers, SCIC
Sister Margaret Vickers, SCIC
Sr. Sarah Maillet, RHSJ**

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 2007 Performance Citation Award. The Citation Award is the highest distinction in Catholic health care in Canada. This year the CHAC convention reasserts the very foundation of “why we do what we do,” reaffirming, that “Values Count!” Not values acknowledged in some abstract way, but values lived and practiced on a daily basis; values that make their way into the minds and hearts of all who work in our health care organizations. This evening we honour three people who have spent a life-time seeking ways to make these values a part of their religious vocations, endeavoring to practice them daily in their ministry, and then going the extra step of passing these important values on to others.

As chair of the Board of Directors, I am honoured tonight to present the 2007 CHAC Performance Citation Award to Sisters Margaret and Charlotte Vickers, who are members of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, and Sister Sarah Maillet, a member of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph.

**Sisters Margaret Vickers, SCIC and
Charlotte Vickers, SCIC**

Sr. Margaret and Sr. Charlotte not only belong to the same religious community but they are also part of the same human family. In considering what to give their lives to, they both chose to become nurses and have spent a lifetime involved in health care in hospitals throughout Canada. The bond they share as sisters, and the dedication they have shown to health care is demonstrated by the fact that the many letters of support that we received nominate them jointly. Yet, as individuals, each has shown a unique way of caring and each has used their expertise to further the values of Catholic health care in a particular way.

After receiving her Bachelor of Nursing, Sister Margaret Vickers went on to study paediatric nursing at Toronto Sick Children's Hospital, audiology at the Royal Victoria in Montreal, and finally she received a Masters in Health Administration from the University of Ottawa. That background has enabled her to serve in a number of capacities over the years, in positions as varied as Director of Nursing, Paediatric Nursing Supervisor and as an Assistant Administrator. Her last administrative role as an Executive Director and Administrator was at St. Joseph's Hospital in Saint John, a position she held for 22 years. One nominator wrote that she

exercised this position with “wisdom and firmness.” Throughout this time, she volunteered on numerous boards. She is a past chair of both the New Brunswick Hospital Association and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan. In all things her dedication and efforts were derived from a deep concern for patients in their time of illness and distress.

Sister Charlotte Vickers has worked in health care as a nurse in hospitals in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, serving in such positions as a night supervisor, a surgical nursing supervisor and finally a Director of Nursing. In her own way, and with a particular passion, Sister Charlotte has given untold hours as a member of boards and committees. She is a past-chair of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, and was a director on the board of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick. In whatever role she played, Sister Charlotte always saw the big picture. She is keenly aware of the determinants of health, and as a result, has served on boards for the, L’Arche, Birthright, AIDS Saint John, Hospice Saint John, and the Saint John Legal Clinic. Sister Charlotte carries a keen awareness of the whole person as she continues to minister.

One nominator wrote that “both Sister Charlotte and Sister Margaret were among the first in Catholic health care to recognize that the ministry must extend beyond the walls of its health facilities”. Please welcome to the stage Sister Margaret Vickers and Sister Charlotte Vickers, two of this years

2007 Performance Citation Award recipients.

Sister Sarah Maillet, RHSJ

Not wanting to give too much away, we can say that the next recipient of the Performance Citation Award, Sister Sarah Maillet, entered the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph in 1945. That means, that Sister Sarah has been involved in promoting values in health care for many years. She has both a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Nursing degree, and has also completed further studies in Pastoral Care, grief counseling and bioethics. She is fluent in French, English and Spanish. Sister Sarah has had a life full of grass roots ministry. She has been a teacher and a nurse in New Brunswick and Indiana, and a missionary in Peru. She also served as Pastoral Care Coordinator in the Edmundston Hospital. At the national level she was Director of Mission Services for the Catholic Health Association of Canada, as well as serving two separate terms on the CHAC Board of Directors. Over the years she has served on many other boards in New Brunswick either as Chair or as a director – too many to mention. Sister Sarah is a charter member of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick and was its first Chair in 1986, and again from 2003 to 2005. She was a member of her congregation’s Task Force which led to the creation of Catholic Health Partners Inc., a Public Juridic Person sponsor organization that now sponsors thirty-one health-related corporations. Sister Sarah was elected the

first chairperson of Catholic Health Partners and holds this role at the present time.

Following health care restructuring in 1992, Sister Sarah Maillet helped negotiate an Agreement between the Government of New Brunswick and four religious congregations involved in health care. She worked with energy, passion and wisdom to preserve a Catholic presence in health care in the province in the face of extreme measures taken by the provincial government. As one of her nominators stated, "Sister Sarah was tireless, tenacious, but always gracious in these negotiations." She has been a stalwart of Catholic health care within her religious congregation, has worked with other communities to transfer the ministry into lay hands, and has been a champion for Catholic health care at the provincial and national level.

It is for this reason that tonight Sister Sarah will receive a double honour. Not only is she a recipient of the 2007 CHAC Performance Citation Award, but she has also been nominated and will be awarded the Performance Citation award of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick. Please welcome Sister Sarah Maillet to the stage. Mr. Leo Burns will join me on the stage to present these awards.