



ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUES
CANADIENNE DE LA SANTÉ

CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA'S HIGHEST DISTINCTION IN CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE BESTOWED

Ottawa — The 1996 Performance Citation Award — Canada's highest distinction in Catholic health care — went to three recipients who have demonstrated a tangible commitment to the values of spirituality, social justice, dignity and compassion.

“Building on these core values, our 1996 recipients have chosen to promote and continue Catholic health care in their own way. They have provided us, in this era of reform, change and uncertainty, with some very inspiring models to emulate,” said Leo Steven, Chairperson of the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) during the award ceremony last night. The ceremony took place in Banff as part of the Association's annual convention *Spirituality: A Core Value*.

The Performance Citation Award is given each year to salute individuals and groups who exemplify leadership in an activity, program or project worthy of national recognition for its strengthening of the Christian community in an extraordinary way.

This year's recipients are :

The **Perinatal Loss Team** of St. Joseph's Health Centre in London. For the past 20 years, the Team has been helping families who have experienced perinatal death (either during pregnancy, at the time of birth, or following birth) to accept and integrate the reality of loss. Margaret Cox and Margaret Nelson accepted the award on behalf of the Team.

Sister Rita Desrosiers, a leader in the spiritual, emotional and physical care of children who suffer from profound mental and physical challenges. Sister Desrosiers has been a strong presence at St. Amant Centre in Winnipeg for 40 years and has dedicated her life to ensuring that each physically and mentally challenged person is accepted as unique, inherently worthy and entitled to a life of quality, dignity and respect.

The **Parish Home Ministry Committee** of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan. The Committee has developed an innovative program designed to help parishes to provide a home-based, value-focused, holistic Catholic care ministry to their sick, elderly, homebound and bereaved members. Father Jean Papen and Sister Anne Collins accepted the award on behalf of the Committee.

“The entire Catholic health care community is very proud of their achievement. We congratulate them and thank them for their unwavering commitment to the care of others,” said Mr. Steven.

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