



Catholic
Health
Association
of Canada

For Immediate Release
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Harold Schmidt Receives Canada's Highest Distinction in Catholic Health Care

(Ottawa) – The 2003 *Performance Citation Award*— Canada's highest distinction in Catholic health care — has been awarded to Harold (Hal) Schmidt for his exemplary leadership as Chief Executive Officer at Saint Mary's Hospital in New Westminster, British Columbia. The presentation of the award took place on Sunday, May 4 during the annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC), in Montreal.

The *Performance Citation Award* is presented each year by the CHAC to an individual or group that exemplifies leadership in an activity, program or project judged worthy of national recognition for its strengthening of the Christian community in an extraordinary way.

As one of his nominators wrote: "Hal has worked constantly and consistently with youthful enthusiasm and energy, with wisdom and vision for the future, but above all with unrelenting passion for the mission of Catholic health care." Mr. Schmidt, who is now Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer with Providence Health Care in Vancouver, has made an exceptional contribution to health care in a Christian context, one that has been recognized by his peers and the community at large.

In 1997 Mr. Schmidt introduced a planning model for Saint Mary's Hospital that was based on the core values of the Sisters of Providence: compassion, justice, respect for the dignity of persons and excellence. The plan provided a values and mission-based framework for decision-making, implementation and reporting at all levels. In implementing the

plan, Mr. Schmidt worked untiringly to create a healing environment among staff, volunteers and patients at Saint Mary's.

Mr. Schmidt is also recognized as having shown firm and hopeful leadership in a period of adversity when Saint Mary's was twice under a threat of closure. As one endorser put it: "His faith that we would preserve the compassionate care in which a denominational hospital excels, and his ability to convey this spirit to those around him, became the touchstone for all of us..."

In presenting the award, Janet Brown, Chairperson of the CHAC Board of Directors, referred to Mr. Schmidt as "a lay person committed to the values of Catholic health care, a man of energy, and a man for the future."

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The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) is a national Christian association supportive of health care in the tradition of the Catholic Church. As the national voice for Catholic health care, the CHAC acts to promote health in all its aspects: physical, emotional, spiritual and social. Its membership includes seven provincial associations; 34 sponsors/owners of health care organizations; 127 hospitals and homes; health care professionals; and affiliate organizations and individuals.

NOTE: A photograph of Mr. Schmidt is available upon request (TIF format).

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