



Programs of Distinction Award

2022

Ininew Patient Services Kingston Health Sciences Centre

Kingston, Ontario



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Recognition of Programs of Distinction is given to an organization that is the creator and lead sponsor or partner in an original, bold, and innovative program. The program is selected because it is inspirational for the sponsoring organization, the people it serves, the community and beyond, and it can be replicated within Catholic health care nationally.

Today we honour the team at Ininew Patient Services, a program of Kingston Health Sciences Centre – Midge Rouse Program Director, David Pichora, CEO.

Ininew Patients Services was started under the auspices of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph of Hotel Dieu Hospital in 1985. The Sisters, aware of the increasing numbers of Cree children from the James Bay and Hudson Bay areas of Ontario receiving health care at Hotel Dieu Hospital, wanted to create a culturally safe environment for parents.

Over 35 years, the mission of Ininew Patient Services has evolved to include: reducing barriers to access to out-of-community health services, to facilitate the provision of health care and support of patients/families in Cree and English, and to maintain a culturally safe environment.

In the words of people and families served by the program:

A parent from Moose Factory wrote: "Thank you for everything you have done for us throughout the holidays. It's not easy for anyone to not be home for the holidays let alone stay for another 6 – 9 weeks. Now that our child is here it was all worth it. Thank you for the gift cards, they certainly come in handy and also for checking up on us."

A patient from Moosonee wrote to program staff: "You came quietly into my private world and let me be me, you tried to understand me, you allowed me the dignity of making my own decisions...I think that you are terrific."

Congratulations to Ininew Patient Services!