Note: A photographer provided by the Edmonton Police Service will be taking pictures of the ceremony and of the award recipients. Copies will be provided to award recipients.
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

24th Annual Community Justice Awards

June 5, 2015
1 - 3 p.m.

Government House
12845 - 102 Avenue, Edmonton, AB
Justice and Solicitor General

Alberta Community Justice Award

In recognition of your outstanding contribution to community justice in Alberta

2015
The Alberta Community Justice Awards recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations promoting community justice in the province.

The awards are in the categories of leadership, service enhancement, community mobilization, partnerships and collaboration, and innovation.

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General is co-hosting the ceremony with the Edmonton Police Service.
PROGRAM

Dignitaries and award recipients escorted into the ceremony by police members

PIPER

Constable Morgan Miller
Edmonton Police Service, Pipes and Drums

WELCOME

Sergeant Steve Sharpe
Edmonton Police Service
Master of Ceremonies

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Edmonton Police Service Choral Group

OPENING REMARKS

Deputy Chief Danielle Campbell
on behalf of
Chief Rod R. Knecht
Edmonton Police Service

AWARD PRESENTATIONS & CITATIONS

Honourable Kathleen Ganley
Minister, Justice and Solicitor General
Minister, Aboriginal Relations

Carsten Erbe, Director
Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice
Justice and Solicitor General

CLOSING REMARKS

Honourable Kathleen Ganley
Minister, Justice and Solicitor General
Minister, Aboriginal Relations

Light reception to follow
2015 COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION
Corporal Ryan Howrish
Cold Lake RCMP - A Better Way

LEADERSHIP
Kari Thomason
Metis Child and Family Services - SNUG Coordinator

Terry Grant Jordan
Boyle and District Rural Crime Watch

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION
Maggie MacKillop
HomeFront - Specialized Domestic Violence Court

Alliance Jeunesse - Famille de l’Alberta Society
Franco - Albertan Youth Justice Committee

SERVICE ENHANCEMENT
Safe Family Intervention Team
Medicine Hat Police Service and
Medicine Hat Women’s Shelter Society

INNOVATION
Michelle Hauser
Camrose and District Victim Services
On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the Justice and Solicitor General 2015 Community Justice Awards

We all have a role in keeping our neighbourhoods strong, and this wonderful event celebrates the work of those who lead and dedicate their time and efforts to local community safety and crime prevention initiatives, victim services, youth justice committees and restorative justice programs.

I am proud to be presenting this year’s awards and I commend all the recipients along with the many frontline service providers, non-profit organizations, volunteers and law enforcement agencies across Alberta. Their outstanding and inspiring commitment makes a difference in our community every day.

I would like to thank the Edmonton Police Service for co-hosting this year’s event and offer my sincere congratulations to all the award recipients.

Kathleen Ganley
Minister
On behalf of the Edmonton Police Service, congratulations to this year’s recipients of the 2015 Alberta Community Justice Awards.

These award winners join an impressive list of Albertans who have made significant contributions to our community. The Edmonton Police Service is honoured to co-host this event with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, to recognize these dedicated individuals.

Outstanding community service, a deeply-felt commitment to excellence, and exceptional accomplishments, are the hallmarks of receiving an Alberta Community Justice Award.

Today’s award winners clearly demonstrate these attributes. They have helped to build stronger relationships between government and non-government agencies, police, and citizens – all in a collective effort to prevent crime and improve public safety. Their work will serve as an inspiration to their communities for years to come.

Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, in making Alberta a great place to call home.

Warmest personal regards,

Rod R. Knecht
Chief of Police
Edmonton Police Service
Corporal Ryan Howrish of the Cold Lake RCMP detachment is receiving a Community Justice Award under the Community Mobilization category in recognition of his dedication and innovative approaches to preventing and raising awareness of domestic violence.

Since 2013, Corporal Howrish has co-facilitated A Better Way, a holistic and multi-agency initiative in Cold Lake that uses group sessions to help men and women involved in domestic violence disputes gain the education and skills necessary to resolve conflicts within their relationships. As a facilitator, he works to create a positive, open and respectful setting for the groups and frequently shares his personal life experiences with participants as they work to improve the quality of their lives and learn how to build and maintain healthy relationships.

Corporal Howrish’s fellow facilitators and the program participants have credited his leadership and commitment as being key factors to the ongoing success of A Better Way. In addition to preparing and delivering A Better Way group programming during the spring and fall, and his regular duties as an RCMP officer, Corporal Howrish continues to invest his time as a member of the program’s steering committee, which includes the Cold Lake RCMP, Cold Lake Victims Services, the Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre, FCSS-Cold Lake and District, and Elizabeth Metis Settlement.
Kari Thomason is receiving a Community Justice Award in recognition of her continuing support of victims of the drug and sex trades.

Kari has been a social worker at Metis Child and Family Services Edmonton for 12 years, and has coordinated the organization’s Project SNUG program since its inception in 2005. A joint initiative with the Edmonton Police Service, the goal of Project SNUG is to help sex trade workers leave their street life and find positive new beginnings. Kari also helped develop, implement and co-manage the Protection of Sexually Exploited Children’s Act Community Follow-Up program, a partnership with Catholic Social Services that assists and supports youth who have been, or are at risk of being, sexual abused or exploited.

Kari became aware of the destructive effects of substance abuse and prostitution at a very early age, as some of her family members went missing through their high-risk lifestyles. Drawing upon her personal experiences, she continues to serve as a liaison between sex trade workers and police agencies across northern Alberta, often getting to know many of the women by first and last name, as if they were members of her own family. This compassion and dedication has made Kari a “street mom” to many women, and she is trusted as someone who can help them access the resources they need when they are ready.

Kari continues to work tirelessly to be available 24-hours a day to women, men and transgendered individuals living and working on the street, and is always equipped with food, warm clothes, chocolate and, most importantly, an offering of support and hope.
Terry Grant Jordan is receiving a Community Justice Award in recognition of his community engagement and proactive approach to neighbourhood crime prevention.

Terry is an unwavering advocate for community safety in the town of Boyle. He relocated there following a thirty-year career with the Edmonton Police Service. Since his arrival to the community, Terry served as Athabasca County’s first peace officer, and as president of the Boyle and District Rural Crime Watch. He is credited for implementing various crime prevention and youth programs, including a bicycle rodeo, a crime prevention poster contest for children and the Child Find in the School program, through which elementary students are fingerprinted for emergency identification purposes.

Currently, Terry works as a security guard for Portage College Construction and Pipeline Training Centre and continues to be an active volunteer at the Royal Canadian Legion, Boyle Branch.

Terry is a recipient of the Canada Twenty Year Meritorious Service Award; the Alberta Twenty-Five-Year Service Award and the Jim Dempsey EPS Customer Service Award.
Maggie MacKillop is receiving a Community Justice Award in recognition of the strong and productive relationships she has built with community agencies in Calgary. In particular, she is being recognized for her instrumental work in helping to establish Alberta’s first ever Specialized Domestic Violence Court, which brought together judges, crowns, defence counsel, law enforcement and community agencies to effectively intervene in domestic violence instances.

Maggie moved from Boston to Calgary in 2000 to join the provincial government pilot project that eventually grew into HomeFront, a non-profit organization that collaborates with the justice system, police and various community partners to reduce domestic violence in Calgary and surrounding areas.

As HomeFront’s executive director, Maggie continues to keep the organization engaged with all aspects of the justice system and ensure the channels of communication remain open. An important part of this work is meeting regularly with members of the judiciary, probation officers and police members involved in the Specialized Domestic Violence Court.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to domestic violence prevention, Maggie received the Jim Gray Safer Calgary Award in 2011.
Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l’Alberta Society (AJFAS) is receiving a Community Justice Award in recognition of the many programs and opportunities the organization has developed and implemented in support of the Franco-Albertan justice community.

AJFAS officially launched in 2000 at la Cité Francophone in Edmonton. Its mission is to prevent crime amongst francophone immigrant youths and help them find a sense of belonging in Albertan society and workplaces. AJFAS services and programs aim to reduce the likelihood that children and youth become involved in criminal activities, and the organization is built upon the belief that crime can be reduced through education, and by addressing social issues such as peer pressure, bullying, discrimination and violence.

AJFAS is a supporting agency of the Caravan Youth Justice Committee, a program that helps youth between the ages of 12-17 gain a better understanding of their actions and the impact of their behaviour on the people they harmed, as well as on their parent(s) and community. The program also gives a voice to victims and is an opportunity for them to express how the offence has affected them and what they need to make things right.
Safe Family Intervention Team (SFIT) is receiving a Community Justice Award for its outstanding commitment to helping ensure violence-free home environments.

SFIT is a partnership between the Medicine Hat Police Service and the Medicine Hat Women’s Shelter Society, and was formed on the belief that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to live a violence-free life. The mission of the unit is to provide a collaborative, timely and effective team response in partnership with support agencies to assist families in dealing with incidents of family violence.

Through its work, SFIT strives to: provide early identification and the appropriate assessment(s) of families that may be in need of family violence intervention referral service; reduce repeat domestic violence-related calls to the Medicine Hat Police Service; ensure that women and children have access to services with Medicine Hat Women’s Shelter Society; and provide the necessary resources, services and referrals for families to establish healthy violence free relationships. The result is stronger relationships with the community, other agencies and governments, which helps to ensure more effective and responsive service delivery.
Michelle Hauser is receiving a Community Justice Award for her work in providing service dog to victims of crime attending court.

Michelle has been the coordinator for the Camrose and District Victim Services Unit (VSU) for 13 years. The unit is a police-based community service made up of the Camrose RCMP and the Camrose Police Service that provides 24/7 supports to victims of crime and tragedy. Prior to joining the VSU, she was a volunteer victims advocate and trained in Red Cross disaster response.

With support from the VSU’s board of directors, the Camrose Police Service and the Camrose Police Commission, Michelle started developing the VSU’s service dog program in 2012. She partnered with Edmonton-based organization Dogs with Wings, which selected and trained a very special black Labrador retriever named Lucy for the role. Upon becoming certified in the spring of 2013, Lucy became Alberta’s first court assistance dog. Together, Michelle and Lucy make regular visits to organizations in and around the Camrose area, including the Camrose Woman’s Shelter and the University of Alberta Augustana Campus, as well as various fundraisers.

Michelle is also credited with the success of a number of local events and programs, such as the Camrose Charity Checkstop, the Camrose Community BBQ and a student practicum placement partnership with the University of Alberta Augustana Campus.
2014 Community Justice Awards Ceremony Honour Guards and Piper.
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