

June 20, 2008

**OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVANTS ON THE JOB AND IN THE
COMMUNITY RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS**

The 10th anniversary of the Manitoba Service Excellence Awards was celebrated today at a ceremony that expresses recognition and appreciation of government employees for providing outstanding service to the communities and citizens of Manitoba.

“Manitoba’s economic growth strategy is working at least in part because of the strong efforts by Manitoba civil servants who design, manage and deliver government programs and services that support citizens and reflect our active and growing economy,” said Advanced Education and Literacy Minister Diane McGifford. “I congratulate all the recipients of this year’s awards. We recognize provincial civil servants as hard-working people who share our vision of good governance and our commitment to serving the people of Manitoba.”

This year, the Partnership Award was added to recognize collaborative efforts of provincial government staff with partners in non-government organizations, private industry and other levels of government.

For this year’s awards, there were 44 nominations, representing 269 civil servants and 38 non-government nominees for a total of 307 nominees submitted to committees of volunteer adjudicators and judges for review.

Awards presented today were:

- Community Service Award: Bob McLeary, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, Winnipeg.
- Innovation Award: Steven McMullin, Louie Odorico and Chelan Schultz, Manitoba Housing Authority, Winnipeg.
- Leadership Award: Dianna Scarth, Manitoba Justice, Winnipeg.
- Service Excellence Individual Award: Donna Mostowy, Manitoba Health, Selkirk.
- Service Excellence Team Award: Chuck Dewey, Carolyn Fedorowich, Allison Forgie-McClurg and Elaine Gray, Manitoba Finance, Winnipeg, and Joseph Horvath, Pawel Idzikowski, Rob Kowbel and Leanne Tsai, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines, Winnipeg.

- Premier's Career Achievement Award: Donna Forbes, Manitoba Health, Winnipeg.
- Partnership Award: Teresa Brown, Dr. Ab Chudley, Mary Cox-Miller, Adrien De Ruyck, Shirley Dion, Judge Mary Kate Harvie, Deborah Kacki, Kristy Semaniuk, Dan Neault and Dr. Kent Sommers, Manitoba Justice, Winnipeg; Gwendolyn Kydd and Dr. Sally Longstaffe, Inter-agency Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program, Winnipeg; and Amber Hills, Winnipeg.

Established through Service Quality Partners in 1998, the Manitoba Service Excellence Awards recognize the hard work, dedication and outstanding efforts of Manitoba government employees. Recipients are nominated by co-workers in recognition of their outstanding contributions as government workers and community volunteers. The awards are a highlight of National Public Service Week.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED

Backgrounder

Community Service Award

Bob McLeary, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, Winnipeg

As a dedicated member of his community, McLeary organized the inaugural Selkirk Catfish Classic 5K Road Race to raise funds for the Selkirk Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. The success of this award-winning event has carried it forward for more than a decade.

Innovation Award

Steven McMullin, Louie Odorico, Chelan Schultz, Manitoba Family Services and Housing, Winnipeg

This team enhanced the Manitoba Housing Authority's Congregate Meal Program, improving the meals and food preparation system without increasing the cost to the low-income seniors and disabled persons using the service.

Leadership Award

Dianna Scarth, Manitoba Justice, Winnipeg

As executive director of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, Scarth motivates others to embrace fairness, neutrality and accountability in a manner that is progressive, accessible and flexible.

Service Excellence Award (Individual)

Donna Mostowy, Manitoba Health, Selkirk

As director of programs, regional affairs, at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre, Mostowyn has proven herself a tireless worker and advocate on behalf of her staff and patients. She continually seeks and applies improved methods of care while providing encouragement and leadership to her staff.

Service Excellence Award (Team)

Chuck Dewey, Carolyn Fedorowich, Allison Forgie-McClurg and Elaine Gray, Manitoba Finance, Winnipeg; and Joseph Horvath, Pawel Idzikowski, Rob Kowbel and Leanne Tsai, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines, Winnipeg

The TAXcess project team successfully implemented, on time and on budget, a new service that allows taxpayers across Manitoba, Canada and the United States to apply for registration of their accounts, file returns and pay provincial taxes online in both official languages.

Premier's Career Achievement Award

Donna Forbes, Manitoba Health, Winnipeg

Forbes has used her years of experience gained in the public health field to provide strong leadership and significant contributions to the province's health-care system. Her many accomplishments have made her a valuable asset and highly knowledgeable resource to her department and the province it serves.

Partnership Award (Team)

Teresa Brown, Dr. Ab Chudley, Mary Cox-Miller, Adrien De Ruyck, Shirley Dion, Judge Mary Kate Harvie, Deborah Kacki, Kristy Semaniuk, Dan Neault and Dr. Kent Sommers, Manitoba Justice, Winnipeg; Gwendolyn Kydd and Dr. Sally Longstaffe, Inter-agency Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program, Winnipeg; and Amber Hills, Winnipeg
Operating Manitoba's unique Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Youth Justice Program, this team is instrumental in providing assessment and diagnosis, thereby assisting the justice department in a continued collaboration, benefiting affected youth and their families. This program has helped the justice system work with chronic young offenders who may have hidden disabilities.