



FOR RELEASE
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Minister of Justice honours 14 Yukoners at Community Safety Awards

WHITEHORSE—The fourth annual Community Safety Awards were held last night at the Coast High Country Inn in Whitehorse. Fourteen Yukoners were recognized for their efforts in preventing crime and fostering community safety.

"These 14 individuals have all made significant efforts to help make their communities a safer place to live," Minister of Justice Brad Cathers said. "The Community Safety Awards celebrate those efforts, and in doing so, we hope to inspire others to make a contribution to their communities and neighbourhoods, in the name of community safety."

The Department of Justice received 23 award nominations this year, highlighting innovative crime prevention initiatives, support services for victims of crime, exceptional efforts in emergency response, volunteerism with at-risk youth and achievements in community policing.

"These awards remind us that community safety is a shared responsibility," Cathers added. "Be it in their jobs or as volunteers, Yukoners can help make our communities safe by being observant, sharing knowledge and investing time in programs and organizations that aim to keep Yukon communities safe and crime-free."

The Community Safety Awards Nominating Committee met on September 15th to review nominations and select the 2015 award recipients. The committee comprises Elodie Dulac and Rob Schneider from the Yukon Police Council, assistant deputy minister of Community Justice and Public Safety Robert Riches, and staff sergeant Brad Kaeding from RCMP "M" Division.

MADD Canada National President Angeliki Souranis was also at the event to speak about the seriousness of impaired driving and to hand out Recognizing Impaired Driving Enforcement (RIDE) Awards to seven Yukon RCMP members for their efforts in reducing impaired driving in the territory.

The Community Safety Awards were established in 2012 in response to a recommendation from the 2010 Sharing Common Ground report, which highlighted a need to recognize the contributions of Yukoners who promote community safety.

This year's Community Safety Awards were expanded to include additional categories for First Responder Awards, in order to recognize the efforts of providers of outstanding emergency medical and wildland fire management services.

Other award categories include recognition for Lifetime Contribution to Community Safety, Outstanding Youth Volunteer, Outstanding Volunteer, Mentorship, Outstanding Community Policing, Outstanding Project, Bridge Builder and Outstanding Contribution to Community Safety.

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Learn more: Community Safety Awards

See list of recipients below.

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Recipients of the 2015 Community Safety Awards

- Outstanding Program: Constable Robert Drapeau
- First Responder Award: Wildland Fire Management – Brian Hoover
- First Responder Award: Emergency Medical Services – Jon Trefry
- Outstanding Project : Constable Jean-Michel Sauvé
- Mentorship Award: Corporal Jeffrey R. Myke
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer: Gordon Rhys Watson
- Lifetime Contribution to Community Safety: Catherine Spence
- Outstanding Contribution to Community Safety: Corporal Karina Watson, Constable Chris Christinger and Teresa Frost
- Bridge Builder: Cheryl O'Brien
- Volunteer Award: Christina Sim
- Lifetime Contribution to Community Safety: Viola Campbell (posthumous)
- Outstanding Community Policing: Corporal Shawn Pollard

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