

FOR RELEASE
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Yukon nurse receives Leadership Award

WHITEHORSE—Continuing Care director of Extended Care Services Sharon Specht has been awarded the Leadership Award from the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Nurses Group.

The award was presented to Specht at the Annual General Meeting of the Yukon Registered Nurses Association in Whitehorse on April 23.

"I'm proud to acknowledge Sharon for her leadership and dedication to helping Yukon nurses achieve excellence," Minister of Health and Social Services Minister Mike Nixon said. "This award recognizes extraordinary leadership demonstrated by an employee who pursued a vision to develop safe and quality care here. We're proud to have such a dedicated leader in nursing here in Yukon."

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Nurses Group is the voice for hospice palliative care nursing for Canadians living with advanced illness. The group promotes the best quality of life through standards, research, education, health promotion, specialty certification, advocacy and strategic alliances. The Leadership Award is one of two awards introduced last year.

Specht served more than nine years with the executive of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Nurses Group as a secretary, regional representative, president and past-president. She has worked in the department of Health and Social Services since 1996. She developed and managed the Yukon Hospice Palliative Care program, reopened and managed the Thomson Centre and is now working as the Continuing Care director of Extended Care Services.

She is currently redesigning nursing models to adapt to the changing health care needs of residents and remains dedicated to advancing hospice and palliative care nursing programs through the application of knowledge and research in Yukon.

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