



PeerWorks



**14th Annual PeerWorks
Lighthouse Awards taking place
at the Annual Conference
in-person on May 9th 2023**

**Peer Support is a lighthouse of
caring connections**

How to Submit a Nomination

PeerWorks



- Use the PeerWorks forms, which can be found on www.peerworks.ca
- Ensure the individual or organization is willing to be nominated, and meets all criteria. Have your nominee sign and approve the nomination form. Please note: PeerWorks may contact the nominator and/or supporters for information or clarification.
- Prepare a full description of the activities & efforts of your nominee that you feel reflect the list of winning attributes described in the brochure.
- Collect as many letters of support as possible (minimum two required, with one being from a PeerWorks member organization).
- Application must be received by April 7th. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Recommendations of the Awards Committee will be taken by the Board of Directors.
- Recipients and nominators will be notified by telephone and follow-up written communication on April 17th, 2023.
- If two organizational awards are given, one will be to a PeerWorks member and one to a non-member. If one organizational award is given, it could be either a PeerWorks member or non-members.

Organizational Awards

PeerWorks



INNOVATORS AWARD

Even after more than thirty years, we are consistently impressed by the originality and creativity in the Peer Support field. Our Innovators Award honours organizations that have shown ingenuity and innovation in their peer-based work in the field of mental health and addictions.

This might include:

- innovating programs digitally (eg: creating online meetings, discussion boards, Twitter threads, YouTube channels, webinars);
- working to overcome digital barriers through revised service models or mental health initiatives (eg: warm phone lines, care-package drop-offs, art initiatives etc.);
- or building upon the learned experiences from serving communities during challenging times (such as the pandemic).

Criteria for Nomination:

1. Single organizations as well as collaborations/partnerships between several organizations can be nominated for this award.
2. The nominee must agree to the nomination in writing and, if successful, is invited to send a representative to accept the award at the online awards ceremony. If a representative isn't available, the organization may send an acceptance letter or a recorded video message.
3. Any individual or organization may nominate an organization in this category so long as they are not a staff or board member of the nominated organization.

Organizational Awards

PeerWorks



COMMUNITY BUILDERS AWARDS

PeerWorks's history and diverse membership continue to serve as a testament to the strength and resilience of our communities. Our Community Builders Award goes to an organization that is creating bridges while employing the values of peer support. Community builders are collaborators and partners who care about equity and social justice. Throughout their work, community builders amplify the voices of those who have been silenced and increase capacity for peer involvement in decision-making.

The work of community builders comes in many different forms:

- they may work across organizations, sectors, neighbourhoods, regions, or identity/issue/social groups
- they may foster relationships, create networks, or create more inclusive and resilient communities.
- they may offer better services, or increase access to support and information
- they may reduce stigma and discrimination.

Criteria for Nomination:

1. Single organizations as well as collaborations/partnerships between several organizations can be nominated for this award.
2. The nominee must agree to the nomination in writing and, if successful, is invited to send a representative to accept the award at the online awards ceremony. If a representative isn't available, the organization may send an acceptance letter or a recorded video message.
3. Any individual or organization may nominate in this category so long as they are not a staff or board member of the nominated organization.

Individual Awards

PeerWorks



PEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Our Peer of the Year Award goes to a peer worker who stands out for their dedication to improving mental health and addictions support. Through their compassionate and lived experience-informed work, the Peer of the Year uplifts members of their community, improves service delivery and amplifies the consumer voice. Their work may include creating/leading new peer support programs, advocating against mental health and addictions stigma and discrimination, or working to transform existing practices with an organization. The Peer of the Year is a leader in the community they serve (be this geographical, organizational, identity-based, etc.) and an inspiration to other peers.

Criteria for Nomination:

1. The individual is currently a member in good standing of a PeerWorks member organization or is an individual member.
2. The nominee must agree to the nomination in writing and, if successful, is invited to accept the award at the online awards ceremony.
3. Anyone may nominate except the nominee.

Individual Awards

PeerWorks



UNSUNG HERO AWARD

Our Unsung Hero Award goes to an individual who through their tireless commitment and work has shown excellence in their service and support around mental health and addictions. Often, these are members of organizations or communities who work hard to encourage and amplify other voices, shine a spotlight on the work of others and do behind-the-scenes work to keep peer support services running and peer support communities strong. While they may not be at the front and center of an organization, their work has an enormous impact on the community and people served. This award is specifically intended for someone who has not been recognized for their work in mental health and addictions before.

Criteria for Nomination:

1. The individual is currently a member in good standing of a PeerWorks member organization or is an individual member.
2. The nominee must agree to the nomination in writing and, if successful, is invited to accept the award at the online awards ceremony.
3. Anyone may nominate except the nominee.
4. The nominee has never won any mental health and addictions-related award at the provincial or national level.

Individual Awards

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PAY IT FORWARD AWARD

The Pay It Forward award is inspired by influential mental health champion Linda Chamberlain. Like Linda, the nominee for this award will have experienced significant challenges in life and used their experience to advocate for change.

“Paying it forward” in the context of mental health could mean using one’s own experience of discrimination in the health system to lobby for the improved conditions and treatment of future users. It could mean advocating for more affordable housing and improved shelter conditions for others after experiencing homelessness. Whatever the context, the nominee has mobilized their experience to create something better for others, shows compassion to their peers and inspires future generations to pay it forward too. They are an embodiment of hope for the future, and an inspiration for the decades to come!

Criteria for Nomination:

- 1.No organization affiliation is needed to be nominated in this category.**
- 2.The nominee must agree to the nomination in writing and, if successful, is invited to accept the award at the online awards ceremony.**
- 3.Anyone may nominate except the nominee.**

NO ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION NEEDED