

Excellence in Nursing, Health Advocacy, Honorary Life Membership, Honorary Affiliation and Rising Star

1. Nomination criteria is provided below. Nomination forms may be completed on the CRNNS website www.crnns.ca or emailed in Word format at your request (contact dmartin@crnns.ca). To qualify for nomination, your submission must include the following:
 - Completed nomination form with the name and contact information of the nominator and seconder. For the Rising Star, the Nominator must be the nominee's immediate supervisor.
 - Supporting information on the nomination form that demonstrates how the nominee's ongoing contributions made a difference or what has changed as a result of the nominee's efforts. Submissions must include specific examples that demonstrate how each criteria is met and may include details of contributions to CRNNS committees, special nursing interest groups, other committees, etc. but should be pertinent to the nomination category.
 - A Letter of Support (from someone other than the nominators)
 - Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
2. The nominations are for individual RNs and NPs. Group nominations will not be accepted. If the achievement was accomplished by a group, the nominator has to clearly identify the contribution of the individual RN or NP to meet the criteria.
3. One letter in support of the nomination are to be provided by individuals other than the two nominators. For the Excellence in Nursing Awards, the letter must speak to #2-5 for the overall criteria and the specific criteria for each award. For the Health Advocacy, Honorary Life, Honorary Affiliation and Rising Star awards, the letter much speak to all the criteria. The Letter of Support does not take the place of the nomination. The nomination has to pass as a standalone document. The contributions must have occurred within, but not limited to, the last 5 years (except for the Honorary Life Membership and Honorary Affiliation Awards) and the last 3 years for Rising Star.
4. Carefully review the award criteria for the award you are considering to assess whether the nominee meets all of the requirements for eligibility and that you are nominating the nominee for the appropriate award. The evidence provided must include "specific examples" in point form for each criterion. Please do not repeat the criteria statement in your response.
 - Specific examples from both successful and unsuccessful past nominations are provided at the end of these Guidelines to assist in preparing your nomination.
5. Please refrain from using abbreviations and acronyms in your submission as the reviewers may be unfamiliar with these terms.
6. A nominee's abbreviated résumé or curriculum vitae should be submitted with the nomination. If publications and/or presentations are applicable, just identify the number as a collective.

7. If submitting by Word document, forward completed nomination package to:
Chair, CRNNS Awards Selections Committee,
c/o Executive Assistant
Via e-mail: dmartin@crnns.ca
8. Deadline for nominations - Note the deadline for nominations in any given year is the first business day in February. Submissions are to be forwarded electronically. Hard copies are not required. The Awards Selections Committee will evaluate the nomination against all the criteria and make a decision to accept or reject nomination. These recommendations will be taken to the CRNNS Council for approval. Nominators will be notified of Awards Selections Committee decision. Successful nominees will be invited to attend the Awards Presentation Ceremony at the Annual General Meeting Banquet. (Travel and related expenses reimbursed as per CRNNS AGM Expense Guidelines.) To receive the award, successful nominees will be requested to provide consent to publish photograph and profile information in CRNNS publications and website.

Examples of Nomination Statements

To assist nominators in the writing of award nominations, the following are excerpts from actual nomination statements that either demonstrated, or failed to adequately provide, evidence of meeting the award criteria. The Awards Selections Committee has observed that unsuccessful nominations are often the result of lack of actual evidence, not necessarily the ineligibility of the candidate. For consideration when completing an award nomination, please review the statements below and ensure that your nomination is worded in such a way that the committee has evidence that the criteria has been met.

These are examples of actual award nomination statements that in essence expressed the opinion of the nominators however did not provide specific examples of how the criteria was met. In the opinion of the Awards Selection Committee, these statements lacked evidence and therefore the nominations were not accepted for an award.

- holds close to her heart the standards of nursing practice and the code of ethics
- this person is committed to the health and well-being of ...
- Being a front line health care provider is a vital contribution to the health of Nova Scotian communities.
- is a positive role model
- Promotes best practice in nursing and sets a high standard for the quality of care.
- Is an educator who practices using the principles of adult education.

These are examples of actual award nomination statements that were accepted for an award. As you will see in each statement, there is not only a statement of activity that meets the criteria, but also provided is the evidence of an outcome that is required to be deemed “excellence”.

- She took a course in adult education and facilitation and a communication course “Delivering difficult News and Providing support”. With this she developed an education package for patients with breast cancer as well as a booklet and training package for nurses to educate and prepare patients for mastectomies and discharge planning.
- She promotes the use of behavior tracking for individuals exhibiting challenging behaviours. She then with the interdisciplinary team used the data to develop and evaluate interventions to alleviate pain, manage challenging behavior or promote comfort for residents.

- This candidate was instrumental in the development of the Health Care Leadership and Professional Practice courses in 2009 that is now a compulsory session for all Managers and Directors within VON and which regularly receive positive feedback.
- She identified the need for nurses to be more knowledgeable and more aware of the signs and symptoms of delirium in residents so she developed a pocket card for nurses to use as a quick reference.

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARD

Purpose of award: To give recognition to individual registered nurses and nurse practitioners in Nova Scotia who have demonstrated excellence in the application of their standards and code of ethics, and made outstanding contributions to the nursing profession in any of the four domains — administration, clinical practice, education, or research.

Nomination process: Nominations must be submitted by at least two active-practising members of the College and include a maximum of two letters of support from individuals other than the nominators. Nominations may be submitted at anytime throughout the year, with all those received at the provincial office on or before the first working day in February of any given year being considered for that year’s awards.

To be eligible to receive the Excellence in Nursing Award, nominees must meet the overall criteria (noted below), as well as specific criteria set for their domain of practice (i.e., administration, clinical practice, education, or research). The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples that indicate how nominees have met all the criteria (overall and specific).

More than one award may be presented in any given domain in any given year.

Overall Criteria

1. Advances and promotes the practice of nursing by contributing to nursing and health policy through participation on committees at the local, provincial, and/or national level (e.g., CRNNS Council, CRNNS committees, provincial health-related task forces, CNA committees, nursing interest group executives, multidisciplinary committees, nursing councils, or community health boards).

Please list committees in date chronological order in point form. Include specificity in terms of dates and level of participation on committee work. Must list 2-5 examples that meet the criteria of “advances and promotes”; not just a list of committee participation.

2. Promotes the image of nursing by acting as a positive role model. List examples of evidence in point form.
3. Acquires new learning and incorporates this in the practice environment. List examples of evidence in point form.
4. Demonstrates strong leadership and interpersonal skills (e.g., with colleagues, those receiving care, members of the healthcare team). List examples of evidence in point form.
5. Demonstrates commitment to evidence-based and/or best practice. List examples of evidence in point form.

Criteria – Excellence in Nursing Award: Administration

This award is presented to individual registered nurses and nurse practitioners who excel as nursing administrators in any setting. The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples of how the nominee for Excellence in Nursing: Administration meets the following criteria:

1. Empowers registered nurses to actively participate in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care. List examples of evidence in point form.
2. Promotes a culture where registered nurses are positive, challenged and involved. List examples of evidence in point form.
3. Advocates for registered nurses and nursing in the healthcare setting. List examples of evidence in point form.
4. Demonstrates commitment to the development and implementation of organizational goals, priorities, and strategies. List examples of evidence in point form.

Criteria – Excellence in Nursing Award: Clinical Practice

This award is presented to individual registered nurses and nurse practitioners who excel in the provision of direct care in any setting. The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples of how the nominee for Excellence in Nursing: Clinical Practice meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates an expert level of competency in the delivery of holistic care. List examples of evidence in point form.
2. Demonstrates innovation in the delivery of care. List examples of evidence in point form.
3. Actively advocates for quality health care. List examples of evidence in point form.
4. Fosters a culture that promotes a quality nursing practice environment. List examples of evidence in point form.

Criteria – Excellence in Nursing Award: Education

This award is presented to individual registered nurses and nurse practitioners who excel in the provision of nursing education in any setting. The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples of how the nominee for Excellence in Nursing: Education meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates creativity, innovation, and flexibility in motivating learners and attending to individuals' learning needs. List examples of evidence in point form.
2. Follows emerging trends in health care, and proactively initiates program and/or curriculum revision. List examples of evidence in point form.
3. Consistently demonstrates a commitment to improving the quality of health care through nursing education. List examples of evidence in point form.

Criteria – Excellence in Nursing Award: Research

This award is presented to individual registered nurses and nurse practitioners who are actively engaged and excel in nursing research, as a principal or co-investigator, in any setting. The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples of how the nominee for Excellence in Nursing: Research meets the following criteria:

1. Conducts research that is significant to the practice of nursing. List examples of evidence in point form.
2. Provides evidence that research findings, conclusions, and recommendations have been published recently in refereed journals and books. List examples of evidence in point form.
3. Promotes and enhances the application of nursing research in the practice environment. List examples of evidence in point form.

HEALTH ADVOCACY AWARD

Purpose of award: To give recognition to individual registered nurses and nurse practitioners who have made outstanding contributions to preserve, protect, or improve the health, safety and wellbeing of a group of individuals or a significant segment of our population.

Nomination process: Nominations must be submitted by at least two individuals or organizations who can give evidence of how the nominee has met the following criteria. Nominations may be submitted at anytime throughout the year, with all those received at the provincial office on or before the first working day in February of any given year being considered for that year's award. To be eligible to receive this award, nominees must hold a current active-practising licence with the CRNNS.

The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples that indicate how nominees have met all the criteria established for the award. More than one award may be presented in any given year.

Criteria

This award is presented to registered nurses and nurse practitioners who have made significant and sustained contributions to the health of Nova Scotians. The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples of how nominees for the Health Advocacy Award meet the following criteria:

1. Advocates for or implements a health initiative that is making or has made a difference in the community. List examples of evidence in point form.
2. Improves the health or quality of life of a group of individuals with common health needs. List examples of evidence in point form.
3. Increases public access to appropriate health services. List examples of evidence in point form.
4. Demonstrates leadership by influencing change. List examples of evidence in point form.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Purpose of award: To give recognition to individual registered nurses and nurse practitioners who have exited the nursing profession, demonstrated excellence in the application of their standards and code of ethics, and have made outstanding contributions to nursing in Nova Scotia over the course of their nursing career.

Nomination Process: Nominations must be submitted by at least two individuals. Nominations may be submitted at anytime throughout the year, with all those received at the provincial office on or before the first working day in February of any given year being considered for that year's awards.

To be eligible to receive the Honorary Life Membership Award, nominees must be retired and currently or have been in the past registered with the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS*) and meet criteria (noted below). The Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples that indicate how nominees have met all the criteria.

More than one award may be presented in any given year.

Criteria

Honorary Life Membership may be granted to any registered nurse or nurse practitioner who has made significant lifetime contributions that have:

1. Increased public awareness of the role of nursing. List examples of evidence in point form.
2. Resulted in improved healthcare for Nova Scotians. List examples of evidence in point form.
3. Advanced and promoted the practice of nursing through sustained nursing leadership. List examples of evidence in point form.
4. Influenced change within the nursing profession through active participation at the local, provincial and/or national level. List examples of evidence in point form.

*CRNNS also refers to the former RNANS.

HONORARY AFFILIATION AWARD

Purpose of award: To give recognition to individual members of the public who have rendered distinguished service or valuable assistance to the nursing profession and the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS*).

Nomination process: Nominations for Honorary Affiliation with the CRNNS are invited from CRNNS members and may be submitted at anytime throughout the year, with all those received at the provincial office on or before the first working day in February of any given year being considered for that year's awards. Nominations must be submitted by at least two registered nurses. More than one award may be presented in any given year.

When submitting a nomination for the Honorary Affiliation Award, nominators must clearly articulate, using examples, how the nominee meets the criteria (noted below). The Council's Awards Selection Committee will look for specific examples that indicate how nominees have met both of the criteria.

Criteria

Honorary Affiliation may be granted to any person whose significant long term contributions:

1. Demonstrated exceptional leadership that contributed to the profession of nursing at the local, provincial and/or national levels. List examples of evidence in point form.
2. Rendered distinguished service to the CRNNS. List examples of evidence in point form.

Nominees cannot be, or have ever been, members of the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia.

*CRNNS also refers to the former RNANS.

RISING STAR

Purpose of award: To recognize individual registered nurses in Nova Scotia who have

- achieved a registered nurse designation within the last three years,
- exceeded the expectations of the nominee's employers or colleagues,
- demonstrated excellence in the application of Standards for nursing practice and Code of Ethics, and
- shown great potential to become an exceptional member of the nursing profession.

Nomination process: Nominations for the Rising Star award are invited from CRNNS members and may be submitted at anytime throughout the year, with all those received at the provincial office on or before the first working day in February of any given year being considered for that year's awards. Nominations must be submitted by at least two active practising members of the CRNNS, one of whom must be the nominee's immediate supervisor.

To be eligible to receive the Rising Star Award, nominees must meet all the criteria noted below. The Awards Committee will look for specific examples that indicate how nominees have met all the criteria.

Criteria

This award is presented to a registered nurse who in the opinion of the immediate supervisor and nominator qualifies for recognition pursuant to the purpose of the award and meets the following criteria:

1. Shows evidence-informed best nursing practice
2. Promotes a positive image of nursing by acting as a role model.
3. Provides nursing care that is caring, compassionate and respectful to clients and co-workers
4. Demonstrates accountability for own professional development
5. Acquires new learning and incorporates this in the practice environment.
6. Exhibits a positive interprofessional team attitude
7. Demonstrates innovation and progressive ideas in nursing practice, and
8. Demonstrates collaboration in interpersonal relationships and communication skills