

# NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE *Alumni NEWS*

Issue 1 Winter 2010



## Welcome to our 1<sup>st</sup> edition of *Alumni NEWS*

As you know the Alumni Program was established in 2009 by the Kaiser Foundation to provide a unique opportunity for the Foundation's Award recipients to not only stay in touch with each other but to create a forum to help share ideas and information.

We want to leverage your expertise to help support advances in the field, and at the same time provide you with a useful network of allied professionals. Finally, we think you can help us as "ambassadors" for the Awards program. More about that later...

This will be a quarterly newsletter that will be sent to all Alumni of the National Awards for Excellence program. It serves as one of the vehicles for keeping you up to date on Foundation activities & news on fellow alumni and from the field.

We also encourage you to provide us with feedback, comments or updates through our "Suggestion box". This is your newsletter.

## Entering our 5th year!

The Kaiser Foundation's National Awards for Excellence Program is entering its 5<sup>th</sup> year of honouring the outstanding work being done by the thousands of Canadian organizations, communities, individuals and media who are engaged in the fields of mental health and addictions. Our most recent inductees to the Alumni include this year's winners listed below. You'll find a brief outline of their profile further on in this newsletter. Welcome and congratulations to:

- Excellence in Public Policy – **Robert Solomon**
- Excellence in Community Programming **Ilisaqsivik Society**
- Excellence in Indigenous Programming - **Mike DeGagné**
- Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use Programming – **New Opportunities for Women (NOW) Canada Society**
- Excellence in Leadership – **Dr. Patricia Erickson**
- Excellence in Youth Leadership - **Megan Lummiss**
- Excellence in Media Reporting - **Rand Teed**

### Contents

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Welcome to <i>Alumni NEWS</i>     | 1   |
| Entering our 5 <sup>th</sup> year | 1   |
| A word from Edgar F. Kaiser, Jr.  | 2   |
| A word from Michel Perron         | 3   |
| A word from Deborah Tucker        | 3   |
| Meet the 2010 Winners             | 4/5 |
| The alumni category chairs        | 6   |
| Your alumni & partners            | 7   |

## A word from Edgar F. Kaiser, Jr.



I am thrilled that as we enter our 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation, the National Awards for Excellence continues to attract the best and brightest minds in Canada. It is you, our dear alumni, who have made the Awards, program what it is.

It really was just a few years ago when my wife Sue and I knew we had to do something to better celebrate and highlight the outstanding work happening in Canada on mental health and substance abuse. Literally from coast to coast, we are fortunate to have you, who work so tirelessly, often under most challenging circumstances, all to help a fellow human being.

Of special note, I would like to recognize and congratulate Karen Minden, CEO of Pine River Institute and 2009 Award Recipient for Excellence in Community Programming, on her recent appointment to the Order of Canada – a tremendous and well deserved honour.

The Kaiser Foundation is proud to champion the Awards and we are equally pleased to see so many partners join us in this exciting work. I look forward to next year's awards.

## 2011 Call for Nominations!

To nominate someone or to apply for an award yourself is easy. Visit the Nominations section at

<http://www.kaiserfoundation.ca/awards/nominations.php>

for information on our Awards criteria, Awards categories and to download the nomination forms.

**EXTENDED! Deadline for 2011 Award submissions is now January 10, 2011.**



## Message from the Alumni Chair



**Michel Perron,**  
Chair of the  
NAE0 Alumni and CEO for  
the Canadian Centre on  
Substance Abuse

I was doubly honored to have been selected as the 2008 NAE Public Policy recipient and when asked by Edgar Kaiser, Jr. to chair the new NAE Alumni. Since that time, I was fortunate to enlist a chair for each of our award categories and I would like to thank each and every one of them for agreeing to that role. Our alumni represents a unique and growing collection of accomplished individuals working in the field of mental health and substance abuse.

I want your participation on the alumni to be more than simply an honorific status. Your category chairs and I want to encourage regular and ongoing communications with your peers, to seek your advice on critical issues to the field of mental health and addictions and to help us all promote strong candidates for the annual award nominations. This newsletter kicks off that strategy and you will hear much more from us on an ongoing basis. I also call on each and every one of you to help shape the activities of the alumni by making your ideas and suggestions known. *And I would like to begin that work by asking each and every one of you to consider nominating a candidate for the 2011 Awards.* I am certain you are well acquainted with some of Canada's outstanding talent and we would like to acknowledge and celebrate their work.

I am also delighted to introduce you all to the Kaiser Foundation Executive Director, Deborah Tucker. Her message follows below and we look forward to hearing from you.

***The National Awards for Excellence has quickly become the pinnacle of acknowledgment for leaders in the field of Mental Health and Addictions.***

## Message from the Executive Director



**Deborah Tucker**  
Executive Director for the  
Kaiser Foundation

I am very excited to be part of the first edition of our Alumni Update newsletter, and to support this innovative program. While fairly new to my role as Executive Director for the Kaiser Foundation, one of the first things that struck me was the high level of dedication and commitment of those working in this field to truly make a difference for those living with mental health and addictions.

Congratulations to our 2010 National Awards for Excellence Winners who have now joined a group of other like-minded leaders. We are proud to have an Awards program that recognizes the tremendous contributions of all our alumni and helps to shine a light on best practices to support advances in this field. We could not do this work; however, without our partners.

*I am very pleased to announce we have a new national partner, the RCMP Foundation. We see great alignment in the work that we do and we are thrilled to welcome them to our family of National Partners. More details about this new partnership coming soon.*

## Ilisaqsivik



Ilisaqsivik was founded and led by the residents of Clyde River. Ilisaqsivik owns and operates the Ilisaqsivik Family Resource Centre where it promotes community development and wellness through quality educational, cultural, and counselling programs that are responsive to changing community needs. All of Ilisaqsivik's programs are based on respect for Inuit traditional values. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit knowledge) and Inuuqatigiittiarniq ("the healthy inter-connection of mind, body, spirit, and environment") are incorporated into all programs. Ilisaqsivik runs over 40 diverse community-based and culturally-based programs that support the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of all local residents from infants to Elders.



A certified drug counsellor and high school teacher, **Rand Teed** is the creator and host of "Drug Class," an award-winning educational television program which has been broadcasted on Saskatchewan Community Network for the last two years. Drug Class is a documentary of the lives of several youth struggling with substance use problems. The program is based on an in-school service Mr. Teed has been providing to the Regina Catholic School Board for the past six years.

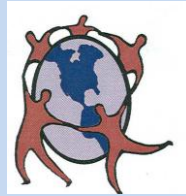


**Mike DeGagné** is well-known and well-respected for his leadership in implementing and overseeing a range of community-based healing programs that have reduced the negative effects of alcohol and drug use in Aboriginal communities. Mr. DeGagné has worked in the field of addiction and mental health for the past 25 years and is the current and founding Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF), an organization that since its inception in 1998 has been committed to creating sustainable healing processes for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.



One of the nation's first harm reductionists, **Dr. Patricia Erickson** helped bring the harm reduction philosophy to Canada through her scholarly articles and books, community talks and work at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. She was also the first to thoroughly examine the consequences of drug criminalization. Several of her publications are considered seminal works in the field. Among her many roles in the addictions field, Dr. Erickson has served as Director of the University of Toronto's Collaborative Program in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs, and has served on numerous committees, advisory boards and expert panels.

## Our 2010 Winners and new Alumni Members



**NOW Canada Society (NOW) provides temporary shelter, permanent housing and a wide range of transition services for women and female youth, with or without children, who have suffered abuse and struggle with mental health issues, addictions issues, homelessness and poverty.**



**Professor Solomon has been a leading legal expert on alcohol and other drug issues for 30+ years. His major efforts have been focused on impaired driving issues, leading to changes in impaired driving policies and programs in several provinces. He was also one of the first legal experts to analyze and document problems with current illicit drug policies, particularly those concerning marijuana. His most recent work has focused on civil liability of alcohol providers and server intervention programming. As a founding Director of the Canadian Drug Policy Foundation and one of the first proponents of harm reduction in Canada, he has strongly influenced others in law enforcement, treatment and drug research.**



**A 25-year-old survivor of abuse and mental health issues, Megan Lummiss has shown tremendous strength in character by completing high school, obtaining her degree in social work, and sharing her heart-breaking story with young people in order to increase awareness of mental illness and to encourage them to seek help. Since 2005, she has been an integral part of Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI), a community coalition that aims to increase knowledge about mental illness and decrease social stigma.**

## Meet your Council!

The Alumni Council was created to support the operations of the Alumni program and is composed of a Chair and seven individual Category Chairs, representing each of the Award categories. One of the main functions of the Council is to maintain informal contact with their respective category winners in order to stimulate discussion amongst these individuals.

- Indigenous Programming: Kevin Barlow (2006) [jkevinbarlow@yahoo.com](mailto:jkevinbarlow@yahoo.com)
- Community Programming: Dr. Karen Minden (2009) [Karen@pineriverinstitute.com](mailto:Karen@pineriverinstitute.com)
- Leadership: Dr. Ronald Abrahams (2008) [rabrahams@shaw.ca](mailto:rabrahams@shaw.ca)
- Media Reporting: André Picard (2009) [apicard@globeandmail.ca](mailto:apicard@globeandmail.ca)
- Mental Health and Substance Use Programming: Terry McGurk (2009) [Tmcgurk@coasthamilton.ca](mailto:Tmcgurk@coasthamilton.ca)
- Public Policy: Donald MacPherson (2007) [donaldmacpherson@shaw.ca](mailto:donaldmacpherson@shaw.ca)
- Youth Leadership: Loryn Marcellus (2009) [loryn.marcellus@shaw.ca](mailto:loryn.marcellus@shaw.ca)
- Chair of the Council: Michel Perron (2009) [mperron@ccsa.ca](mailto:mperron@ccsa.ca)

## Alumni Spotlight

Share news of recent awards, appointments and accomplishments of your fellow alumni members.

### Suggestions

Tell us what you or your fellow alumni are up to, and we may feature you in our "Alumni Spotlight" section. Your comments, ideas & suggestions on this newsletter are most welcome. This is YOUR newsletter, after all.  
Email [mperron@ccsa.ca](mailto:mperron@ccsa.ca)



## Help us gear up for 2011!

The National Awards for Excellence Recognition Ceremony will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan in April 2011. We are very honoured to have this special event hosted by the RCMP at the RCMP Depot. More details to follow soon.

There are no better ambassadors for our Awards program than our honoured recipients. Take the time to nominate a deserving colleague or recognize a community organization. Help us continue to shine the light on those doing exceptional work in this field.

Many thanks to the outstanding work of CAR-BC led by Dr. Tim Stockwell and in particular to Dan Reist who chairs the review process for us.

Let's work together to make their task a challenge!

## Your Alumni

### Excellence in Indigenous Programming:

- **Mike DeGagné, Aboriginal Healing Foundation** (2010) Ontario
- **Spirit of Burns Lake** (2009) British Columbia
- **Eel Ground First Nation School Drama Club** (2008) New Brunswick
- **Crossing Communities Art Project (CCAP)** (2007) Manitoba
- **Kevin Barlow, Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network** (2006) Ontario

### Excellence in Community Programming:

- **Ilisaqsivik Society** (2010) Nunavut
- **Pine River Institute** (2009) Ontario
- **Point de Repères** (2008) Quebec
- **African Canadian Development & Prevention Network** (2007) Quebec
- **Chambreclerc Non-Profit Housing** (2006) Quebec

### Excellence in Leadership:

- **Dr. Patricia Erickson** (2010) Ontario
- **Dr. Liz Whynot** (2009) British Columbia
- **Dr. Ronald Abrahams**(2008) British Columbia
- **Ontario Needle Exchange Programs Best Practices Recommendations Team** (2007) Ontario
- **Dr. Perry Kendall** (2006) British Columbia

### Excellence in Media Reporting:

- **Rand Teed** (2010) Drug class, Saskatchewan
- **André Picard** (2009) The Globe and Mail, Quebec
- **Peter McKnight** (2008) The Vancouver Sun, British Columbia

### Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use Programming:

- **New Opportunities for Women (NOW) Canada Society** (2010) British Columbia
- **COAST - Crisis Outreach and Support Team** (2009) Ontario
- **MPA Berman House (Motivation, Power and Achievement Society)** (2008) British Columbia
- **York Region Methamphetamine Strategy** (2007) Ontario
- **Canadian Mothercraft Society** (2006) Ontario

### Excellence in Public Policy:

- **Professor Robert Solomon** (2010) Ontario
- **Michel Perron** (2009) Ontario
- **Dr. Eric Single** (2008) Ontario
- **Donald MacPherson** (2007) British Columbia
- **Walton ' Bud' Osborn** (2006) British Columbia

### Excellence in Youth Leadership

- **Megan Lummiss** (2010) Ontario
- **Loryn Marcellus** (2009) Alberta
- **Daniel McKennitt** (2008) Alberta
- **Sarah MacDonald** (2007) New Brunswick
- **Brianna Olson** (2006) Alberta

## We would like to gratefully acknowledge our Foundation Partners

- Assembly of First Nations
- Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
- Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)
- Chevron
- Coast Capital Savings
- CTVGlobemedia
- Frank & Helen Harquail OBE
- Great West Life Group
- Government of Canada
- Government of Ontario
- Health Research Foundation
- Manulife
- Norlien Foundation
- Power Corporation Canada
- RCMP Foundation
- Rio Tinto Alcan
- Spirits Canada
- The LOHN Foundation

For more information visit us at the Kaiser Foundation website: [www.kaiserfoundation.ca](http://www.kaiserfoundation.ca)



