

**DATE:** January 17, 2012

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction (Trustee Request #131b)

**ORIGINATOR:** Tanni Parker, Assistant Superintendent Student Learning Services

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Tricia Giles-Wang, Debbie Jackson, Corrie Ziegler

**REFERENCE:** October 25, 2011 Board Meeting (Trustee Cleary)

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### **ISSUE**

The following information was requested: Investigate and provide a comprehensive report back on the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction – a new Alberta initiative launched earlier this month to report on:

- Opportunities for the District and provide comments on awards program and how the District may be able to be part of this initiative.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction (The Circle) is a new Alberta initiative that was launched on October 5, 2011. The goal of The Circle is to help reduce stigmas associated with mental health issues and addiction, increase public knowledge of mental health issues and recognize champions who are making a difference in the lives of those facing mental health issues or addictions across the province (Attachment I). The Circle also focuses on promoting collaboration and cooperation among various organizations within Alberta that deal with mental health and addiction. The Circle currently consists of 13 members (experts in the field, community leaders, and those with lived experience) including the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Opportunities exist for Edmonton Public Schools to be involved in The Circle initiative. Some suggestions include:

- Promoting a greater understanding of The Circle initiative through the District's various communication vehicles (e.g., Need to Know News, The Mailbag, Bulletin Board, SchoolZone, etc).
- Sharing research based strategies to reduce associated stigmas (through district websites and share sites, professional learning opportunities through the District, Edmonton Regional Consortium, etc.).
- Nominating individuals who have made a significant commitment to supporting students with mental health issues.
- Encouraging district representatives to attend the various lectures, seminars and round table discussions sponsored by The Circle.

A key component of The Circle is the True Awards program. This program consists of five awards, all with different criteria and target recipients: True Grit, True Compassion, True Leadership, True Service and True Imagination (Attachment II). Each of the five awards has a specific target recipient including individuals, non-governmental organizations, national, provincial or civic agencies or branch departments and groups.

**KEY POINTS**

- The Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction was launched on October 5, 2011.
- The Circle's goals are to reduce stigmas, increase public knowledge of mental health issues and addictions and recognize individuals/organizations that have made a commitment to health promotion in the areas of mental health and addictions.
- The Circle implemented an awards program, of five awards, to honour individuals and organizations that are making a difference in the lives of those with mental health issues and/or addictions.
- Opportunities exist for Edmonton Public Schools to be involved in the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addictions initiative.

**ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT I The Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addition Brochure

ATTACHMENT II The True Awards Nomination Guidelines, Descriptions and Criteria

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“There are many people in Alberta—from all regions, all ages and all walks of life—who have dealt with mental health concerns. I’m one of them. My own experiences with post traumatic stress disorder have allowed me to see the stigma and misunderstanding that can surround the issue.

“I’ve also come to appreciate the many remarkable Albertans from across our province who are working to deliver valued mental health programs, to enhance public awareness, and to encourage recovery, hope and understanding.

“This Circle is intended to shine a light on the progress we’re making and to encourage even greater success in the future.”

His Honour, Col. (Ret'd) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell  
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

## Nominations

Nomination forms are available at:

[www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle](http://www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle)

Submit nominations to:

The Lieutenant Governor’s Circle on  
Mental Health and Addiction  
c/o 12th Floor, Centre West Building  
10035 – 108 Street  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 3E1

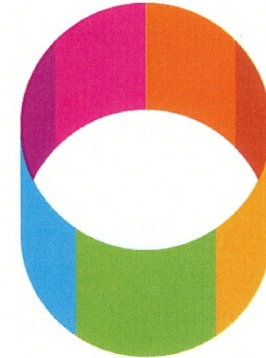
For more information, visit:

[www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle](http://www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle)

The Awards Selection Committee will be comprised of the Lieutenant Governor’s Circle Members. Community leaders in Mental Health and Addiction may be called upon for assistance in the adjudication process.



**The Lieutenant Governor’s Circle  
on Mental Health and Addiction**



## The Lieutenant Governor’s Circle on Mental Health and Addiction

In his inaugural speech, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, His Honour, Colonel (Ret’d), the Honourable Donald Ethell, OC OMM AOE MSC CD LLD, spoke of his wish to make mental health and addiction areas of considered focus during his tenure.

His Honour will thus serve as patron for the newly established Lieutenant Governor’s Circle on Mental Health and Addiction.





## The Circle

Consisting of experts in the field, community leaders, and those with lived experience, the Circle will seek to build on the Lieutenant Governor's work by offering encouragement and recognition to Albertans who have shown commitment, passion and ingenuity in improving the lives of those living with mental illness and/or addiction.

## Our Focus

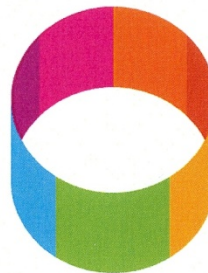
The Circle will create and administer an awards program to recognize groups and individuals who significantly contribute to the improvement of programs and treatment in these crucial areas and to combat the stigma often associated with either and or both.

The Circle will foster greater public awareness and understanding by sponsoring opportunities – such as lectures, seminars and roundtable discussions – so that Albertans can learn about mental health issues and their impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and society as a whole.

Circle members will encourage cooperation and collaboration by bringing together various Alberta organizations and initiatives that deal with mental health and addiction.

## Awards Criteria

- A person is eligible if he or she is a resident of Alberta. A group or corporate entity must also be based in the province.
- It is preferred that the recipient be able to attend the Awards ceremony, though exceptions will be considered.
- Nominations are accepted at any time. Please visit [www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle](http://www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle) for information on when the awards will be presented.
- If a nominee is not selected in the year of the application, the applicant may be considered in the next cycle.
- Self-nominations or posthumous nominations will not be considered.
- All applications will be held in the strictest of confidence and will be used only for the purposes of determining merit for each category.



The Lieutenant Governor's Circle on  
Mental Health and Addiction, Alberta

## The True Awards

### 1. True Grit

This award is to be presented to an individual who has made use of mental health and/or addiction services; inspired others to get help in management or recovery of mental illness or substance abuse, or who has dedicated her/himself to furthering mental health and addiction programs.

### 2. True Compassion

The True Compassion Award is to be given to an individual who has provided extraordinary guidance in effecting the improvement of mental health and addiction programs or treatments.

### 3. True Leadership

This award will be presented to a non-governmental organization, non profit, business or private enterprise for providing exceptional leadership in improving mental health and addiction programs or treatment.

### 4. True Service

A public body that has shown itself to be of excellent service to the improvement of mental health and/or addiction reduction will be considered for this category.

### 5. True Imagination

Innovation in improving mental health and addiction recovery is the cornerstone of this category and the award will be given to the individual or group, public, private or non-governmental organization that has initiated imaginative approaches to the improvement of mental health and reduction of addiction through treatment or programs under her/his or their purview.



**The Lieutenant Governor's Circle  
on Mental Health and Addiction**

**The True Awards Nomination Form**

My nomination for the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction Award is (please check one for each application):

**Nominee:**            \_\_\_ Individual    or    \_\_\_ Organization

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Award Category \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

September 2011



**The Lieutenant Governor's Circle  
on Mental Health and Addiction**

**The True Awards Nomination Guidelines**

**Who can submit a nomination?**

Any individual or organization can nominate a suitable candidate or entity for the awards. Members of the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction (and its supporting Foundation) are ineligible to make nominations.

Although an individual or organization may be nominated for awards in more than one category, separate nomination packages must be completed for each nomination and must include separate supporting materials.

The Awards Committee may reassign the nominee to the most appropriate awards category based on material provided. Applications may be considered for up to two years after initial submission.

**For more information, visit:**

[www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle](http://www.mhpa.ab.ca/LGCircle)

**Awards criteria**

A person is eligible if he or she is a resident of Alberta. A group or corporate entity must also be based in the province. Public bodies located outside Alberta will be considered for the True Service category if they have made a significant contribution within Alberta.

- The individual or organization nominated should be inspiring in engaging the community toward positive outcomes in mental health and addiction and in reducing stigma in these areas.
- It is preferred that the recipient be able to attend the Awards Ceremony, though exceptions will be considered.
- Self-nomination or posthumous nominations will not be considered.
- Nominations are accepted at any time.
- If a nominee is not selected in the year of the application, the nominee may be considered in the next cycle.
- All applications will be held in the strictest of confidence and will be used only for the purposes of determining merit for each category.

The Lieutenant Governor's Circle on  
Mental Health and Addiction, Alberta





## The Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction

### The True Awards Descriptions and Criteria

#### 1. True Grit

This award is to be presented to an individual who has made use of mental health and/or addiction services; inspired others to get help in management or recovery of mental illness or substance abuse, or who has dedicated her/himself to furthering mental health and addiction programs.

**Criteria:** For this award an individual who has faced a mental health or addiction challenge may be nominated. Acknowledging the strength, determination and "grit" in overcoming obstacles will be key in determining the merit of this award. The nominee may well have assisted in the recovery of others or helped to further the objectives of a mental health or addiction organization. Finally, anyone who has sought to reduce stigma or helped to improve public awareness and understanding may also be nominated.

#### 2. True Compassion

The True Compassion Award is to be given to an individual who has provided extraordinary guidance in effecting the improvement of mental health and addiction programs or treatments.

**Criteria:** An individual volunteer, practitioner, administrator or other person involved with mental health and/or addiction who may be part of a public, private, or non-governmental organization may qualify for this award. Addressing and improving understanding,

while aiming to remove the stigma associated with mental illness and/or addiction is one commitment that will make an individual eligible. Those who assist in helping individuals or groups to achieve progress in mental health or addiction recovery may also qualify for consideration. A life-long commitment beyond the nominee's occupational expectations will be an important characteristic valued by the Awards Committee.

#### 3. True Leadership

This award will be presented to a non-governmental organization, non profit, business or private enterprise for providing exceptional leadership in improving mental health and addiction programs or treatment.

**Criteria:** For this award non-governmental organizations that have been leaders in improving mental health and addiction treatment programs and that have worked to address and counter stigmatization, improve treatment, or develop a mentally healthy program will be recognized. Organizations may be nominated if their first purpose is not to deal with mental health and addictions, but that have developed a program or programs that speak to these issues.

#### 4. True Service

A public body that has shown itself to be of excellent service to the improvement of mental health and/or addiction reduction will be considered for this category.

**Criteria:** This award will be granted to a national, provincial or civic agency, branch department or other entity that has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of mental health and/or addiction. Whether providing services or programs to Albertans, this award may given to those who have spoken to an underserved part of our community (this may include race, class, gender and/or culture). A national body located outside of the province but that has made a significant contribution within Alberta may be considered.

#### 5. True Imagination

Innovation in improving mental health and addiction recovery is the cornerstone of this category and the award will be given to the individual or group, public, private or non-governmental organization that has initiated imaginative approaches to the improvement of mental health and reduction of addiction through treatment or programs under her/his or their purview.

**Criteria:** Designed to stimulate innovation and imagination in improving the lives of individuals who face mental health and/or addiction issues, this award will be given to an individual or group that has developed imaginative new ways to reduce stigma, promote understanding, enable treatment, or institute projects or programs in either or both areas. Here "idea-makers" who might provide an ongoing contribution to the Circle's aims will be honored.

#### Awards Committee

The Awards Selection Committee will be comprised of the Lieutenant Governor's Circle Members. Community leaders in Mental Health and Addiction may be called upon for assistance in the adjudication.

#### How to submit a nomination

Select an award category that is most appropriate to the person or group you wish to have considered.

1. Complete the nomination form and submit to: The Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction  
c/o 12th Flr. Centre West Building  
10035 108 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E1  
by mail or fax or in person.
2. Use a separate form for each nomination.
3. Provide the full name of the nominee, postal and email addresses, phone number and indicate if you are nominating an organization or individual.
4. Prepare a two-page submission (approximately 500 words max.) that describes why the nominee deserves to be recognized by the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Mental Health and Addiction. This submission should identify how the nominee meets the attributes outlined for the award category (this may include up to five additional support pages such as newspaper articles or other materials that will strengthen your nomination).
5. Obtain up to three letters (max.) of support from other members or organizations in the community outlining the reasons this nominee deserves consideration.
6. Nominators are advised to work with nominees so that information and details submitted are accurate and complete.
7. Deliver one (1) copy of the completed nomination package by mail, courier or in person to the address noted above.