TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE AWARDS

Transformative Change Awards 2027

NOMINATION GUIDE

Deadline: extended to Thursday, December 24, 2026

Alliance for Healthier Communities
Advancing Health Equity in Ontario

Transformative Change Awards 2027

NOMINATION GUIDE

For over 30 years at our annual conference, the Alliance for Healthier Communities has recognized individuals, teams and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities across the province. Transformative Change Awards celebrate leaders, innovators, collaborators and health champions who have been working at the forefront of transformative change helping us achieve our vision of the best possible health and wellbeing for everyone living in Ontario**.** Awards are presented in the following categories:

Transformative Change Awards: Up to three (3) award recipients may be selected. The award is open to Alliance members only; teams, partnerships, organizations, collaboratives and programs are eligible for nominations. Read more about Transformative Change Awards eligibility and selection criteria.

Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award: One (1) award recipient is selected. The goal is to recognize an emerging leader in primary health care transformation who demonstrates tenacity and determination to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities facing barriers to health. Read more about the Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award eligibility and selection criteria.

Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award: One (1) award recipient is selected. The goal is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to advancing health equity. Read more about the Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award eligibility and selection criteria.

Joe Leonard Award: One (1) award recipient is selected every year. This award is the highest recognition from the Alliance and is reserved for individuals only. Read more about Joe Leonard Award eligibility and selection criteria.

Jennifer Rayner Research for Health Equity Award: One (1) award recipient will be selected. The goal is to celebrate a researcher or research team that has made significant contributions to the evidence for team-based primary health care and health equity through innovative and impactful research and has provided valuable insights for practices and policy. Read more about Research for Health Equity Award eligibility and selection criteria.

RECOGNITION

Please note that there is no monetary value to any Alliance award but we will put a strong focus on publicizing the achievements of award recipients. The awards will be presented at the Alliance Conference in June. All award recipients will be featured on Alliance's blog and social media channels. We will work with Transformative Change Award recipients to produce short videos highlighting their achievements. We will also put together a media package and support award recipients in reaching out to local media.

You can see the stories and videos of last year's Transformative Change Awards recipients on our website**.**

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Nominations are welcome from representative(s) of community partners, clients, the Alliance or self-nomination. Alliance members are also invited to nominate individuals, teams, collaboratives, programs and services associated with their own efforts or their centre as whole.
- Nominations for **Transformative Change Awards, Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award, Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award, and Joe Loenard Award** must include:
    - **Completed online application form**:
        - Transformative Change Awards
        - Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award
        - Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award
        - Joe Leonard Transformative Change Award
    - **Supporting documents:**
        - **Letter of support from the nominator (mandatory)**. Additional testimonies from colleagues, partners and clients are welcome but are not mandatory.
        - **Up to five (5) additional supporting documents are welcome but are not mandatory** and may include: photos, videos, newspaper articles, blog posts and other publications, etc.
- Nominations for **Jennifer Rayner Research for Health Equity Award** must include:
    - **Nomination letter (up to two (2) pages)** written by the nominator(s);
    - **Brief summary (up to five (5) pages)** of their research impact or their current curriculum vitae;
    - **One letter of support**.
- All nominations should be submitted by **12 noon p.m. on Thursday, December 24, 2026.**
- All supporting documents can be sent by email to the attention of:
  Lisa Tisdel, Administrative Assistant
  Alliance for Healthier Communities
  E-mail: lisa.tisdel@allianceON.org
- Questions should be directed to **Oleksandra Budna, Communications and Member Relations Lead** at **oleksandra.budna@allianceON.org or 647-278-7926.**

SELECTION PROCESS

- All nominations for Transformative Change Awards, Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award, Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award, and Joe Loenard Award will be peer-reviewed under the direction of the Awards Selection Committee. Their recommendations will be provided to the Alliance Board of Directors.
- All nominations for Research for Health Equity Award will be reviewed by Alliance research staff. Their recommendations will be provided to the Alliance Board of Directors.
- All nominations related to Indigenous programs and services will be reviewed by Indigenous Primary Health Care Council.
- The Alliance Board of Directors will approve the final award recipients. If no nominees have met the award criteria, the Board of Directors is not required to issue an award.

Things to Consider when Preparing a Nomination Package

- An effective nomination package should illustrate the outstanding achievements of the nominee and clearly explain why the nominee should receive the award. The nomination package should "paint a picture" of a nominee's achievements and be compelling.
- Letter(s) of support should use specific and concrete examples and stories to illustrate how your nominee meets one or more of the assessment criteria. Please avoid copying and pasting content from the nomination form; use the letter of support to expand on the points outlined in the form.
- When submitting photos, please make sure they are high-quality in .png or .jpg formats. Please add a signed statement of attestation to release photos for Alliance use.

Timeline

November 9, 2026	Call for Award Nominations issued
November 9, 2026	Call for Nominations for the Awards Selection Committee issued
December 24, 2026	Deadline for Nominations for the Awards Selection Committee
December 24, 2026	Deadline for Award Nominations
January 15-30, 2027	Review process by the Awards Selection Committee
February 8, 2027	Final selection of award winners by Alliance Board
June 1, 2027	Presentation of awards at the Alliance Conference

Transformative Change Award

The Transformative Change Award celebrates exceptional examples of the Model of Health and Wellbeing (MHWB) or the Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing (MWHWB) (for Indigenous organizations) in action and recognizes teams/organizations/collaboratives/programs or services that champion transformative change to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities facing barriers to health.

Eligibility Criteria

- Transformative Change Award is available only to Alliance members.
- Nominees can be teams, organizations, collaboratives, programs or services. Self-nominations are welcome.
- **The Alliance Board members and staff are not eligible for nomination.**
- Awardees must agree to be available for the Alliance's publicity purposes.
- **Please note:** All programs serving Indigenous communities must align with the Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands resolution that was passed by Alliance membership at the Annual General Meeting in June 2019 and demonstrate respect for Indigenous rights to self-determination in health. The motion is available here.

Selection Criteria

In selecting award recipients, the committee will consider the following:

1. Attributes/values of the Model of Health and Wellbeing or Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing (for Indigenous organizations) embodied by the nominee. ***Nominations that incorporate or integrate multiple attributes/values will be weighted more highly than those that focus on only one attribute/value.*** (To see the Model of Health and Wellbeing and Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing, please click here.)
2. Clear and concrete evidence that the nominee has exceptionally championed or achieved transformative change to improve the health and wellbeing of people or communities facing barriers to health.
3. Measurable impacts of the nominee's work. Nominators are encouraged to use the Quadruple Aim Framework to demonstrate impact (e.g. improved health and wellbeing of individuals and/or improved experience of care; improved community and/or population health; improved caregiver experience; and reduced system costs).
4. Clear and concrete evidence that the nominee is sustaining this achievement and continuing to improve in this area.
5. Examples of how this achievement offers other team members/organizations/stakeholders new learnings, processes and/or resources that can lead to improvement.
6. Examples of action(s) taken by this nominee to spread this achievement more broadly (e.g. mentoring, presentations, publications).

Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award

The award is named after Adrianna Tetley, Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance for Healthier Communities for more than 16 years. Under Adrianna's leadership, Alliance has significantly grown its membership, adopted the Model of Health and Wellbeing and Health Equity Charter, embarked on a new Information Management Strategy that includes the largest procurement of an electronic medical record system in Canada, developed new brand promise and adopted new name. Always passionate about improving the health and wellbeing for people facing barriers, Adrianna helped put health equity on the agenda at many provincial tables. She has been a powerful force that has shaped the health equity and comprehensive primary health care landscape in the province.

The Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award will honour an emerging leader in the primary health care transformation landscape who demonstrates Adrianna's tenacity and determination to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities facing barriers to health as well as Alliance's personality: inspired, open, perceptive, savvy, and feisty. (**An emerging leader is someone who has been in the leadership role for less than five years and/or has stepped up lately and taken on an increased leadership role.**)

Eligibility Criteria

- The Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award is available to any individual, Alliance members or non-members.
- Awardees must agree to be available for the Alliance's publicity purposes.
- **The Alliance Board members and staff are not eligible for nomination.**

Selection Criteria

To be eligible for the Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award, nominees must meet all of the following criteria.

1. An emerging leader in primary health care transformation (Someone who has been in the leadership role for less than five years and/or has stepped up lately and taken on an increased leadership role.)
2. Improves the health and wellbeing of people and communities facing barriers to health
3. Demonstrates Alliance's personality traits: inspired, open, perceptive, savvy, feisty

Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award

The award is named after Denise Brooks who was the Executive Director of Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre for more than 25 years. Denise had a long history of social advocacy, community service and development in the city of Hamilton. She worked relentlessly to bring about change in the pursuit of social justice.

Denise is remembered for her commitment to health equity. Throughout her career, Denise worked to improve life for the most marginalized. She was committed to leaving no one behind. In the years before she passed, Denise led important work addressing social inequality in Hamilton and highlighting the detrimental impact of poverty on health.

The Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion award celebrates exceptional examples of the Health Equity Charter in action and recognizes an individual who demonstrates outstanding contributions to dismantling barriers to equitable health and championing policies and interventions that challenge discrimination and oppression, and address social conditions causing health inequities. Additionally, the award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to poverty reduction, advancing social justice and shows a strong commitment to anti-oppression, including commitment to addressing racism against Black and Indigenous people. Integration of these principles must be evident in the nominee's work.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award is available to any individual, Alliance members or non-members.
- Awardees must agree to be available for the Alliance's publicity purposes.
- **The Alliance Board members and staff are not eligible for nomination.**

Selection Criteria

Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award nominee must demonstrate unwavering commitment to recognizing and confronting barriers to equitable health and exhibit one or more of the following attributes:

1. Shows commitment to social justice in their work;
2. Leads development and implementation of activities, programs, services or research to understand, document and/or address the causes and impacts of health inequities;
3. Champions strategies and practices that support awareness, education, advocacy and policy development to reduce poverty and health inequities;
4. Champions anti-racism and anti-oppression in their work, and demonstrates a commitment to addressing racism, especially against Black and Indigenous people, and the health inequities it produces;
5. Collaborates with partners, clients and community groups, especially those that have been traditionally marginalized and disadvantaged by the system;
6. Shares best practices and lessons learned in achieving health equity results.

Joe Leonard Transformative Change Award

This award is named after LAMP Community Health Centre's first Executive Director, Joseph Patrick Leonard. For over 25 years, Joe Leonard touched many lives through his support to others, his leadership, his vision, and his commitment to the community and social justice. He believed passionately in a non-profit, public health care system in which everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, would receive the highest quality of care available. His work significantly contributed to ensure the public health system was strong and accessible to all.

This award is the highest honour given by the Alliance for Healthier Communities and is reserved only for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities facing barriers to health.

The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals like Joe Leonard who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, commitment and support for creative solutions to accessible, high quality and affordable health care.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Joe Leonard Award is available to any individual (Alliance members or non-members).
- **The Alliance Board members and staff are not eligible for nomination.**
- Awardees must agree to be available for the Alliance publicity purposes.

Selection Criteria

To be eligible for the Joe Leonard Award, nominees must meet all of the following criteria.

1. Exhibits humility, passion, tenacity, courage, collaboration, intellectual, emotional, and social growth;
2. Helps communities envision the future, identify paths to success, and carry out a vision;
3. Shows outstanding leadership, commitment, and support to public health, social justice and/or further the recognition of the determinants of health on a community, provincial, national or international stage;
4. Develops innovative ways to make health care accessible to all;
5. Raises awareness on the issues regarding health equity for people or communities facing barriers to health.

Jennifer Rayner Research for Health Equity Award

This award is named after Dr. Jennifer Rayner, Director of Research and Policy at the Alliance for Healthier Communities. Dr. Rayner has been instrumental in building the Alliance's research program and has established connections with over 50 research partners from academia, primary care, and public health.

The award will celebrate a researcher or research team that has made significant contributions to the evidence for team-based primary health care and health equity through innovative and impactful research and has provided valuable insights for practices and policy.

Eligibility Criteria

- Research for Health Equity Award is available to any individual researcher or research group. Researchers and groups may nominate themselves.
- Awardees must be available to accept the award in person, for the Alliance's public relations and advocacy purposes.
- **Alliance Board members and staff are not eligible for nomination.**

Nomination Process

- A **nomination letter written by the nominator(s)**, clearly depicting why the nominee should receive this award. The letter should be no more than two pages in length.
- A **brief summary (five pages or fewer)** of their research impact or their current curriculum vitae. If more than five pages are included, the committee will only review the first five.
- **One letter of support**, which should include example(s) of real-world research impact and applicability to team-based primary health care and health equity.

Selection Criteria

Research for Health Equity Award nominee must demonstrate a strong commitment to team-based primary health care and health equity, and it must have one or more of the following attributes:

1. Emphasizes the importance of team-based primary health care and health equity;
2. Real-world research impact on health care delivery or health care policy;
3. Meaningful and actionable results within team-based primary health care organizations;
4. Champions anti-racism and anti-oppression in their work, and demonstrates a commitment to addressing racism, especially against Black and Indigenous people, and the health inequities it produces;
5. Strong collaboration with partners, clients/patients and community groups, especially those that have been traditionally marginalized and disadvantaged by the system.

Transformative Change Awards Nomination Checklist

(Please note this checklist is for your reference only. You don't need to submit it with your nomination.)

Mandatory:

- ☐ We have filled out an online nomination form:
  - Transformative Change Awards
  - Adrianna Tetley Legacy Award
  - Denise Brooks Health Equity Champion Award
  - Joe Leonard Transformative Change Award
- ☐ We have submitted a letter of support from the nominator to
  Lisa Tisdel, Administrative Assistant
  Alliance for Healthier Communities
  E-mail: lisa.tisdel@allianceON.org

Optional:

- ☐ We have submitted additional letters of support and testimonies from colleagues, partners and clients.
- ☐ We have submitted additional supporting documents, including photos, videos, newspaper articles, blog posts and other publications, etc.
- ☐ We have included a cover page listing all supporting documents and a brief description (1-2 sentences explaining why each document is included)
- ☐ We have included a signed statement of attestation along with the photos.

Things to consider:

- ☐ The nomination package illustrates the outstanding achievements of the nominee and clearly explains why the nominee should receive one of the Awards.
- ☐ The nomination package uses specific and concrete examples and stories to illustrate how the nominee meets one or more of the assessment criteria.
- ☐ The nomination package keeps it real and authentic; it speaks to the heart and mind using both data-based evidence and personal stories for maximum effect.
- ☐ Letters of support are on letterheads wherever applicable.
- ☐ Letters of support expand on the points made in the form and don't just repeat the same information.
- ☐ All supporting documents serve a purpose and help bring the nomination package to life by bringing in diversity of voices and variety of angles.

Remember reviewers most probably aren't familiar with your project so your role is to convince them. Questions to ask yourself when preparing the nomination:

- How is this nomination different from other similar programs/collaboratives/individuals?
- What are the most important achievements?
- What quantitative and qualitative evidence do we have to demonstrate these achievements?
- How can I present the evidence in the most compelling way?
- What was done to spread this achievement more broadly?

Jennifer Rayner Research for Health Equity Award Nomination Checklist

(Please note this checklist is for your reference only. You don't need to submit it with your nomination.)

Mandatory:

- ☐ We have included the following documents:
  - A **nomination letter written by the nominator(s)**
  - A **brief summary (five pages or fewer)** of research impact or current curriculum vitae
  - **One letter of support**
- ☐ We have submitted all required documents to:
  Lisa Tisdel, Administrative Assistant
  Alliance for Healthier Communities
  E-mail: lisa.tisdel@allianceON.org

Things to consider:

- ☐ The nomination package demonstrates a strong commitment to team-based primary health care and health equity.
- ☐ The nomination letter clearly depicts why the nominee should receive this award. The letter is no more than two (2) pages in length.
- ☐ The summary of research impact or current curriculum vitae is five (5) pages or fewer. If more than five pages are included, the committee will only review the first five.
- ☐ The letter of support includes example(s) of real-world research impact and applicability to team-based primary health care and health equity.

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Photo Statement of Attestation

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

I attest that I have the express permission from the persons depicted in the attached photo(s) to release the photo(s) to the Alliance for Healthier Communities for the stated use(s) below:

☐ The right to display the photo(s) as part of the Transformative Change Awards Program. The photo(s) will be included in a video or slideshow for participants in the room and to be posted on the web.

☐ The right to publish the photo(s) to the Alliance website, in publications and in PR/promotional materials. These images may appear in any of the wide variety of formats now available to Alliance and that may be available in the future, including -- but not limited to – print, broadcast, videotape, and electronic/online media.

Name (printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date of Agreement: _____