

## **RE: Nomination of Brenda Armstrong for the Clifford E. Van Alstyne Communication Award**

I would like to nominate Brenda Armstrong for the Clifford E. Van Alstyne Communication Award. As a friend and colleague, I have observed Brenda's dedication and leadership in public health. I nominate Brenda for this award for her commitment to effective communications in public health. Her specific areas of expertise include climate-health and healthy built environments where she advocates for action and inclusion of a health equity lens.

Brenda received certification as a public health inspector in 1996 and is currently working with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) as program manager, Healthy Environments and Vector-Borne Disease. Brenda demonstrates dedication to advancing public health through communications in many forms. She diligently works to share knowledge and experience to inform the practice of other public health professionals. Her efforts include contributing to the public health evidence base through publications in the literature and grey literature. Brenda is also undertaking strategic knowledge translation at the local, provincial, and national level. In addition, she regularly provides formal and informal mentoring of others.

Brenda has contributed to several published journal articles on a range of public health issues. Examples of recent publications include an article on rabies in an imported dog (<https://doi.org/10.14745/ccdr.v48i06a01>), and an article describing the process for a scoping review on climate change interventions for public health which included a chapter with indigenous knowledge (<https://doi.org/10.5864/d2022-017>). She co-led a locally developed collaborative project with other Ontario public health units to identify promising practices for public health on healthy built and natural environments, producing the website [www.planningforhealth.ca](http://www.planningforhealth.ca). Recently, Brenda and her team contributed to the development of climate-health programs in BC through presentations to the BC Ministry of Health and local public health authorities to share knowledge and unique experiences from the climate-health journey at SMDHU. Brenda uses interpersonal communication to mentor and coach others – helping them to define and achieve professional goals across multiple disciplines.

In her role, Brenda has mentored student and new public health inspectors, as well as students from other educational backgrounds supporting them in pursuit of variety of public health professional roles. Brenda also participates in the CPHA mentorship program to provide one-on-one formal mentoring to new public health professionals.

Brenda's commitment to effective communications is well aligned with the objectives of the Clifford E. Van Alstyne Communication Award. Her contribution to public health communications is evidenced by publications, presentations, and conversations – striving to inform public health practice across the country. Based on this, I strongly recommend Brenda for this award. Thank you for your consideration.

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