

# BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS



2017

## AFHTO Board of Directors Award Windsor-Essex County Health Unit



The AFHTO Board of Directors Award is presented to an individual -- or an organization -- who is not an AFHTO member but has significantly contributed to the development and growth of interprofessional team-based primary care within their local community or at the provincial level.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has demonstrated that it is deserving of such recognition. For the past three years, the Health Unit has worked with two family health teams, two nurse practitioner-led clinics and two community health centres in a partnership designed to improve service to the municipalities in their area.

The members of the partnership are:

- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- Windsor Family Health Team
- Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre
- City Centre Health Care-CMHA
- Harrow Health Centre Inc.: A Family Health Team
- Essex County Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic
- VON Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic Lakeshore



The partnership has produced a fluoride varnish pilot and created a foundational healthy eating program called Eat4Life. The members are currently collaborating on two additional modules that will focus on healthy weight loss and a psycho-educational program designed to address healthy thinking in terms of behaviours associated with eating. Eat4Life is an evidence-based program created using best practice criteria and it serves as a model for other primary care teams.

The group is also finalizing a common health promotion calendar so that programs and services offered by the seven partners will be hosted on the same website. It will provide people living in Windsor Essex with a coordinated point of access to programs and services open to the public. The Health Unit's health promotion team, under the direction of Nicole Dupuis, has been instrumental in this and other program successes.



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A major achievement of the partnership has been the consistent leadership and staff working groups that have come together to share knowledge and expertise to co-design evidence-based programs and services followed up with standardized evaluation.

Also, thanks to the partnership, member teams are now regularly engaged with other Health Unit activities such as partnering to inform and participate in Community Needs Assessments and the Healthy Kids Community Challenge. The relationships established through this innovative partnership are expected to grow as *Patients First* sub-region work unfolds.

