
Backgrounder

Canada's "Top Docs" Recognized for Commitment and Leadership in Family Medicine

—10 Award Winners Dedicated to Patients, Communities, and Family Medicine Teaching and Research—

Recognizing Excellence in Family Medicine since 1972

What is the Family Physician of the Year?

Canada's Family Physicians of the Year are 10 dedicated family doctors providing exceptional care to patients, contributing to the well-being of their communities, and committing themselves as researchers and educators to future generations of family doctors.

When did the Award begin?

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) has proudly honoured family physician members exemplifying the guiding principles of family medicine since 1972. In 1996, the College named the award in honour of Dr Reg L. Perkin who served as Executive Director of the CFPC from 1985 to 1996.

How are the winners selected?

Peers, colleagues, and the CFPC's 10 provincial chapters nominate the award recipients. The recipients embody the four principles of family medicine: they are skilled clinicians; community-based; they serve as resources to the people around them; and they value the patient-doctor relationship.

When will the awards be presented?

The College presents the *Reg L. Perkin Awards* during Family Doctor Week in Canada celebrations from November 9-14, 2015 during the CFPC's annual Family Medicine Forum from November 11-14.

Who are the 2015 award recipients?

The CFPC is pleased to recognize 10 outstanding family physicians – one from each province - for their achievements and leadership that greatly benefit their patients, students, colleagues, family medicine research and communities.



“I am humbled by this experience and grateful for the nomination. I believe that as family physicians we need to focus on what should always be most important: to care with care. It is when we touch the soul of our patients and community that we truly discover that we are mere facilitators on their journey to healing.”

Dr Anthon Meyer is described as a primary care visionary with commendable leadership in providing comprehensive care to rural, remote, and First Nations communities throughout Canada.

After receiving his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (M.B. Ch.B.) from the University of Free State, South Africa, in 1991, Dr Meyer completed an internship with the Universitas Hospital Training Complex in South Africa in 1993. In 2000, he moved to northern Manitoba, and he received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 2004.

After establishing a general practice with ER skills and serving as a “fly-in” family physician in northern Manitoba, Dr Meyer relocated to Fort St. James, B.C., where he serves as Medical Director of the Fort St. James Medical Clinic. He also practices comprehensive family medicine and emergency care through his roles as a family physician with Stuart Lake General Hospital.

Dr Meyer is the founder of Amdocs, a unique primary care model that has led to the recruitment of health care providers and the establishment of full-service, rural general practices with ER skills in the Inuit and First Nations communities in northern Manitoba and Ontario.

Currently, Dr Meyer serves as Assistant Professor with the University of British Columbia, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, as well as a lecturer with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. He is also a peer assessor with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

In addition to his clinical work and various academic leadership roles, Dr Meyer serves as chair of the board of AMCARE (Aggregated Metrics for Clinical Analysis and Research Evaluation) in Northern Health.

When he is not volunteering his time to assist in population health projects, Dr Meyer (a soon-to-be granddad) enjoys traveling and spending time with his wife, Lydia; their daughter, Marile, and her husband, Pieter; and their son, Anthon Jr.



“Practising medicine is about being a team player. Having represented family medicine and physiotherapy/occupational therapy, I have carried that mindset for the last 20 years of my solo family medicine career. My current team is a diverse group of health care professionals, from nurses and dieticians to technicians, educators, and a shared mental health care team. Prevention and nonjudgmental education are our mandates, and I would like to acknowledge colleagues dedication, as they really share this award with me.”

A prominent family physician, Dr Margaret Churcher is recognized for her unwavering commitment to patient-centred care, as well as for her special interest in asthma, pulmonary care, cancer, and mental health management.

After receiving her medical degree from Queen’s University in 1979, Dr Churcher traveled to Dunedin, New Zealand, and worked as a first-year house surgeon. She subsequently returned to Alberta and completed a one-year internal medicine residency with the University of Alberta followed by an anesthesia residency with the University of Calgary (U of C). In 1995, she received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and she became a Fellow in 2006.

In 1993, Dr Churcher established a comprehensive family medicine clinic in Calgary. She also consults on referrals for asthmatics and pulmonary disease.

Dr Churcher has held many leadership roles with U of C’s Faculty of Medicine. Since 2011, she has served as Clinical Lecturer and was instrumental in the development and teaching of the Asthma for Family Physicians program.

Currently, Dr Churcher serves as a board member and director with Mosaic Primary Care Network and as vice-chair of the Provincial Advisory Council for Cancer with the Alberta Ministry of Health. For 10 years, she served as chair of the Planning Committee for the Annual Scientific Assembly of the Alberta College of Family Physicians, and she has participated on the Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Advisory Committee since 2001.

Dr Churcher maintains a monthly blog alongside her daughter, Rachel, who holds a degree in kinesiology. The blog features topics for patients including disease prevention, diet, exercise, and a variety of other health care articles and information.

A true foodie and an aspiring sommelier, Dr Churcher enjoys traveling, gardening, yoga, and spending time with her husband, Nelson, and daughter, Rachel.



“Being able to play a meaningful role in the lives of others is a distinct privilege for a family physician, an appreciation of which grows greater the longer one is in practice. Receiving this award (as I begin to withdraw from clinical work) is reassurance that my time has been well spent. I have the loyalty of my patients and the love and sacrifice of my wife and family, as well as the support of a tremendous medical community, to thank for this humbling distinction.”

Active in family medicine education and training of medical students and residents, Dr Tom Smith-Windsor is acknowledged for his dedication and perseverance to providing exceptional health

care in rural Saskatchewan.

After beginning his career as a biologist, Dr Smith-Windsor realized that his calling was in family medicine. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) in 1989, received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) in 1991, and he became a Fellow in 2004.

Dr Smith-Windsor has provided medical services to the First Nations Community of Montreal Lake since 1991. In 1999, he began serving as a civil aviation medical examiner with Transport Canada and a medical examiner with Immigration Canada. Currently, Dr Smith-Windsor practises family medicine with the Associate Medical Clinic in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

For the past 21 years, Dr Smith-Windsor has served in many academic positions with U of S. After serving as coordinator of the Division of Rural Family Medicine, he became associate dean, rural and northern medical education for the College of Medicine in 2009. Dr Smith-Windsor is credited for leading the development of a successful rural family medicine resident training program in Prince Albert that also teaches enhanced surgical skills—a first in Canada.

Dr Smith-Windsor has served on many national and provincial committees focused on rural medicine and rural medical education. Currently, he participates as a member of Advancing Rural Family Medicine: The Canadian Collaborative Taskforce, a CFPC and Society of Rural Physicians of Canada initiative.

Dr Smith-Windsor enjoys spending time with his wife, Deanna, and their four children. They are passionate about sailing, canoeing, camping, traveling, and skiing.



“Practising family medicine means my patients have entrusted me with the responsibility to take care of their health, as well as their families’ health and well-being, today, tomorrow, and in the future; it is about helping them make the best decisions for their health and ensuring their quality of life is preserved to the best of our ability, using all the resources we have at our disposal.”

Dr Michel Bruneau was nominated by his colleagues for his commitment and compassion as an outstanding family doctor and, specifically, for his focused care for cancer patients. For the past five years, he has provided exemplary patient care in the community of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

Dr Bruneau received his medical degree from the University of Manitoba in 1994. In 1996, he received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

After graduating, Dr Bruneau opened Somerset Place Clinic in Somerset, Manitoba. He began practising rural family medicine, while providing obstetrical and ER care at the Lorne Memorial Hospital in Swan Lake, Manitoba. In 2010, he relocated to eastern Manitoba and started his new practice in Lac du Bonnet Health Centre. In 2014, he established the Lac du Bonnet Medical Group. As Medical Director he continues to practise rural family medicine. Dr Bruneau also serves as Ward Physician and in the ER Department at the Pinawa Hospital. In addition, he treats in-patients and makes house calls through the hospital’s Cancer Care Program.

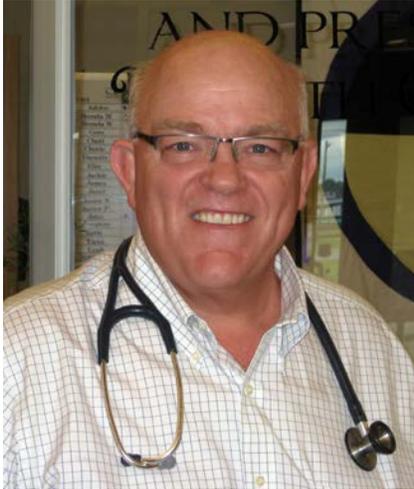
As a life-long learner, Dr Bruneau holds several certificates in Advanced Life Support. In 2013, he obtained certification in Emergency Department Echo (level 1) from the Canadian Emergency Ultrasound Society and completed CancerCare Manitoba’s Community *Cancer Program* in 2011.

Since 2012, Dr Bruneau has participated on the Board of Doctors Manitoba.

Soon after arriving in Winnipeg to attend university, Dr Bruneau met his wife, Christine. They married while he was in medical school and they have two children, Nicole and Daniel. You might catch him at the local Dojo where he enjoys karate and taekwondo, or fishing and snowmobiling.

Robert Algie, MD, CCFP, FCFP

Fort Frances, Ontario



“Practising rural medicine has been extremely rewarding. Receiving the Reg L. Perkin Award in recognition of my 35 years of rural family medicine practice in Fort Frances, Ontario, is truly humbling. Teamwork and support from my colleagues and my wife, Janet, have all played an integral role in my receiving this award.”

A pillar in his community, an innovator in rural family medicine, and an integral partner in establishing a family health team in Fort Frances, Ontario, Dr Robert Algie is recognized for his dedication to and advocacy for rural health care.

After graduating from Queen’s University in 1980, Dr Algie completed a rotating internship with the Ottawa Civic Hospital in 1981. In 1989, he received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and he became a Fellow in 1998.

For the last 35 years, Dr Algie has practised comprehensive rural family medicine with Nelson Medicine Professional Corporation. There, he advocates for the adoption of electronic medical records and established the local family health team, of which he is the lead physician. Since 1997, Dr Algie has served as Chief of Staff with Riverside Health Centre. He also works closely with the aboriginal community in providing primary care and consulting with nurse practitioners at the Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre.

As a preceptor with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), Dr Algie’s dedication and passion for rural family medicine has emanated through his mentorship of family medicine residents, undergraduate and medical students.

Dr Algie has served on several committees and boards. Currently, he is Executive Member-at-Large of the Ontario Medical Association (Rural Section) and a board member of NOSM. He served on the Executive Committee of the Ontario College of Family Physicians for four years before serving as president in 2009.

You can catch Dr Algie in the audience of various community events or piping with the Rainy Lake Highlanders. He enjoys skiing, spending summers on his sailboat, and traveling with his wife, Janet. Together, they have two children, James and Heather, and a golden retriever named, Murphy.

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“For me, practising and teaching family medicine is about serving both patients and students. It’s fascinating! You also learn a lot about life and grow right along with them. I’m really grateful for that.”

Dr Rénauld Bergeron is honoured for his significant contributions to primary and palliative care and teaching in family medicine, as well as his passion for lifelong learning.

A graduate of Laval University, Dr Bergeron received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1980, and he became a Fellow in 1995.

Since 1980, Dr Bergeron has practised family medicine and has engaged in numerous leadership roles at Laval University. Currently, he is a professor for the Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine Department, where he served as Director from 1999 to 2007. Since 2010, Dr Bergeron has served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, where he held the position of Vice-Dean for the previous two years.

Dr Bergeron has always had a strong interest in palliative care. He assisted in establishing the Maison Michel-Sarrazin, a palliative care centre, and assisted in establishing the palliative care consultation team at Hôpital Laval. From 1999 to 2009, he served as Chair of the Regional Palliative Care Committee, and he was Chair of the Inter-departmental Committee of Palliative Medicine from 2001 to 2009.

Dr Bergeron has also supported the development of networks for collaborative, professional practices that are focused on the patient. As dean, he helped develop teaching and research networks with the Alliance santé Québec.

As a vocal proponent of social accountability, Dr Bergeron has been actively involved with the United Way since 2014, and he participates on the Board of Directors for the Foundation of Laval University. Dr Bergeron has been involved in primary and palliative care research. He is renowned for his numerous publications including peer-reviewed articles and research reports.

In 2011, Dr Bergeron was granted an Award of Excellence from the Québec College of Family Physicians, and in 2008, he received Laval University’s Faculty of Medicine Polaris Award.

Outside of his work, Dr Bergeron enjoys spending time with his wife, Martine Bourget, three daughters, and three grandchildren. On quieter days, he enjoys fly fishing, nature walks, traveling, and listening to classical music.

Shirley Clements, MD, CCFP, FCFP

Campbellton, New Brunswick



“I feel very humbled to have been recognized by my colleagues and patients for this award. Practising family medicine is such a privilege because we are able to share intimate moments with our patients and their families. Family medicine has always provided exceptional learning opportunities that have allowed me to grow professionally and personally, as learning never ends.”

Admired by her colleagues and patients for her empathy and knowledge, Dr Shirley Clements is recognized for her commitment to providing exceptional patient care.

A medical graduate of Laval University in 1989, Dr Clements received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1991, and she became a Fellow in 2005.

After practising comprehensive family medicine and serving as an emergency room physician, a hospitalist, and an inpatient care provider for 23 years in Campbellton, New Brunswick, Dr Clements decided to change the scope of her practice to become a full-time hospitalist in 2015. For 12 years, she worked as Chief of Service for the Palliative Care Unit with Campbellton Regional Hospital.

From 2012 to 2014, Dr Clements participated on the Regional Medical Advisory Committee as a family medicine representative for several of New Brunswick’s hospitals. She served as a member of the Medication Management Committee for the Campbellton Regional Hospital, and supervised medical students at Campbellton Hospital. Currently, Dr Clements supervises medical students at Ross Memorial Hospital.

In 2014, Dr Clements received the Family Physician of the Year Award from the Restigouche Medical Society.

Dr Clements’ genuine spirit and commitment to the well-being of the communities she serves is exemplified through her involvement as a marathon runner who accompanies first-time racers and her fundraising efforts for multiple sclerosis. She hopes to one day act as a running guide for the visually impaired.

Dr Clements spends “quiet time” with her husband Ginno Pelletier, a respiratory therapist, and their nine nieces and nephews. Additionally, she enjoys trekking, traveling, and reading.



“I was elated to have been chosen as a resident in the family medicine program at Dalhousie University in 1978 and I have enjoyed every minute of my practice since. It is an honour to receive this award and it is truly humbling to have been nominated by extraordinary physicians whom I have been privileged to know and practise alongside.”

A leader in his practice and community, Dr Michael Fleming is recognized for his dedication to patients and his relentless pursuit and advocacy of continuing professional development.

Dr Fleming earned his medical degree from Dalhousie University in 1978. He completed a medical internship and family medicine residency training in 1980. That same year, Dr Fleming received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), and he became a Fellow in 1998.

Since 1980, Dr Fleming has practised comprehensive family medicine with the Fall River Family Practice. During that time, he has had hospital privileges at the Grace Maternity Hospital, Victoria General Hospital, and Camp Hill Hospital (now Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre).

For 34 years, Dr Fleming has enjoyed progressive career roles with Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Medicine and Continuing Professional Development departments, where he served as an educational consultant, program developer, and Accreditor for Dalhousie’s family physician and specialist programs. Currently, Dr Fleming is Director of Family Medicine Programs and Assistant Professor with Dalhousie’s Division of Medical Education.

Dr Fleming served as chair of CFPC’s National Committee on Continuing Professional Development from 2002 to 2009. He is now the committee representative for the Association of Faculties of Medicine. For nine years, Dr Fleming was a member of the Board for Doctors Nova Scotia. In 2013, he was elected president and subsequently served as past president and chair.

Dr Fleming is married to Isobel and enjoys working on their family farm in his spare time, as well as spending quality time with their daughter Tricia, and her husband, Cory; daughter Carolyn; son Peter, and his wife, Jennifer and two-year-old son, Evan.



“Practising family medicine is a privilege and I am proud to treat and advocate on behalf of my patients each and every day. It is both gratifying and humbling to be recognized by my esteemed colleagues. I am extremely grateful for the work I do and the people I work with.”

Respected by her colleagues and cherished by her patients for her commitment to patient advocacy, Dr Trina Stewart is well known on Prince Edward Island (PEI) as a devoted family physician, mentor, and teacher.

A medical graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr Stewart received Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) in 2000, and she became a Fellow in 2011. In 2010, she received a diploma in practical dermatology from Cardiff University in Wales.

Dr Stewart has practised comprehensive family medicine since residency—including surgical assists and in-patient, geriatric, emergency, and ambulatory care—first in southern Nova Scotia and later in Summerside, PEI, where she currently practises family medicine, teaches medical students, and provides dermatology services. Since 2005, she has owned and operated Esprit Medical Aesthetics and co-owns a spa with her sister in New Brunswick.

In 2004, Dr Stewart began serving as a lecturer to medical students and residents of Dalhousie University. Since 2008, she has been Curriculum Coordinator for the family medicine program at Dalhousie’s PEI site, and she tutors students in the practical dermatology program at Cardiff University.

Currently, Dr Stewart represents the Atlantic region as a national member of CFPC’s Dermatology Committee. Since 2011, Dr Stewart has participated as a national board member of the Canadian Association of Aesthetic Medicine and has served as a curriculum coordinator of the PEI site of Dalhousie’s family medicine program since 2008.

In 2013, Dr Stewart received the CFPC’s Award of Excellence, and in 2010, the Janus Continuing Professional Development Award. In 2008, she received the *PEI Family Medicine Preceptor of the Year* award from Dalhousie University.

Dr Stewart enjoys spending her rare moments of spare time with her husband, Dean, and their two children, Dexter and Lindsay. She loves to sit on the deck at their cottage and read a book, or go for a long walk.



“I started practising family medicine with the ultimate goal of developing excellence in my diagnostic and clinical skills, but I quickly learned that the ultimate skill was how to allow your patients to feel at ease in your presence. In doing so, I am humbled by the trust and confidence my patients have placed in me over the years, and I am coming to more fully understand what it truly means to be a family doctor.”

Dr Percy Crocker is acknowledged for his kindness, compassion, and dedication to his patients, practice, and continuing professional development.

In 1989, Dr Crocker received his medical degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). He obtained Certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1991, and became a Fellow in 2004.

Dr Crocker began practising family medicine in 1991 with a special focus on geriatric and palliative care. In his work with Eleven Elizabeth Family Practice, he provides house calls and visits patients in long-term care facilities in St John's. Since 1992, Dr Crocker has served as a preceptor to family medicine residents of MUN's Faculty of Medicine Department. He also served as a clinical lecturer from 2001 to 2009, and since then has continued in his role as Clinical Assistant Professor.

Dr Crocker has participated in several working and advisory groups regarding primary health care reform and alternative payment plans, and was an early champion of electronic medical records (EMR) in Newfoundland. In 2007, Dr Crocker's EMR work led to a partnership with the Eastern Regional Health Authority for the Primary Health Care Enhanced Information Technology Project and Practice Management/Electronic Medical Record Urban Pilot Project. Since 2012, he has participated in the Electronic Health Records Labs—Clinical Working Group for the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI).

Since 2005, Dr Crocker has served on the Ethics Committee for Chancellor Park, an extended care facility, and, since 2014, on the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN) Advisory Committee for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Dr Crocker and his wife, Bessie, are the proud parents of Paul, who is currently completing his family medicine residency, and Joy, who just began a pediatric residency program. Dr Crocker enjoys traveling, photography, and gardening.

For more information, visit the [Family Physician of the Year Website](#)

Follow the Award hash tag for updates: #TopDocsCanada

Aussi disponible en français

To arrange an interview or for more information please contact:

Shelley Pringle, shelley@polarisprinc.com, (416) 597-1518

Leslie Booth, leslie@polarisprinc.com, (416) 427-1588