

The Tapestry of Aging

Threads of
Connection
& Well-being



**Healthy
Aging
Alberta**
SUMMIT 2025

Healthy Aging Alberta Summit

2025 Impact Awards

About the Awards:

Healthy Aging Alberta is pleased to present the inaugural Healthy Aging Impact Awards, celebrating the outstanding individuals and organizations that support older adults and the community-based seniors serving sector in Alberta. These awards will recognize those who make a meaningful impact in their communities through collaboration, innovation, and integrity. Let's come together to celebrate the achievements of those working tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of older adults in our communities.

These awards will be presented at the October 7th Evening Gala during the Healthy Aging Alberta Summit.

Award Categories Overview:

1. **The Compassion in Action Award** – recognizing individuals for their exceptional volunteer contributions to the community.
2. **The Spark Plug Award** – recognizing individuals, organizations, grassroots groups, programs, or initiatives for exceptional innovation and creative approaches in developing and implementing programs that support older adults.
3. **Ubuntu Award** – awarded to individuals, grassroots groups, programs or initiatives that intentionally create a sense of accessibility, belonging, and community*.
4. **Head, Heart and Hands Award (Indigenous)** – (in the process of consulting on an Indigenous name) – awarded to individuals, grassroots groups, programs or initiatives who are delivering outstanding services or supports in Indigenous communities.
5. **The Trailblazer Award** – recognizing an individual or program that is a trailblazer and actively champions combatting ageism in their community.
6. **Empowerment Award (champion for elder abuse response)** – recognizing a service provider who works alongside individuals experiencing elder abuse and who goes above and beyond in their daily practice.
7. **Heart of the Community Award** – recognizing an individual or group that has shown exceptional leadership in developing collaborative community partnerships.

*Community – a physical location; a group of people who self-identify as a community

How to Nominate:

Do you know of an individual or an organization who deserves one of these awards? We invite you to submit a nomination for these inaugural awards, focusing on the criteria listed below.

Award Criteria

Award Category:

The Compassion in Action Award

This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates exceptional volunteer contributions that positively impact the community.

Impact on Older Adults

- The volunteer's efforts have meaningfully enhanced the well-being, quality of life, or sense of belonging of older adults, either directly through hands-on support or indirectly through advocacy, leadership, or program development.

Dedication & Commitment

- The nominee has demonstrated outstanding dedication by consistently volunteering significant time, energy, and passion over an extended period.

Leadership

- The nominee serves as an inspiration to others, fostering a culture of volunteerism, mentorship, or advocacy in support of older adults.

Inclusivity & Compassion

- The nominee actively fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment, embracing the diversity of older adults. Their actions demonstrate a profound empathy, cultural sensitivity, and a dedication to ensuring that all older adults feel valued, respected, and supported. They demonstrate belonging, compassion and non-judgment

Award Category:

The Spark Plug Award

This award celebrates an individual, grassroots group, or program that has demonstrated innovation and unique approaches to developing and implementing programs, as well as forming partnerships that support older adults. This innovation should be bold, timely, and transformative.

Impact on Older Adults

- The nominee demonstrates a positive impact on older adults' well-being, independence, or social engagement. The innovation considers the diversity of aging in Alberta.

Innovation & Creativity

- The nominee applies new methods, technologies, or creative solutions to address challenges faced by older adults

Scalability & Replicability

- The nominee's work could be an example for other groups to expand or adapt in a way that can serve their community or the broader province.

Community Engagement

- The nominee works collaboratively with others in community and encourages community involvement and ownership

Award Category:

Ubuntu Award (Equity Champion)

This award recognizes individuals, organizations, programs, or initiatives that exemplify a welcoming and accessible environment for all and foster a sense of belonging within the community.

Ubuntu is an ancient African word from the Bantu languages rooted in humanist African philosophy and can be roughly translated as "I am because we are".

Commitment to Equity & Inclusion

- The nominee actively supports older adults from equity-deserving groups and demonstrates positive impact on improving their quality of life

Culturally Responsive

- The nominee uses culturally appropriate approaches (such as addressing language, religious practices and norms) to best support community, and bridge gaps between diverse groups and mainstream services

Addressing Systemic Barriers

- The nominee effectively removes systemic or social barriers, enabling older adults to build connections and access essential resources.

Community Engagement & Collaboration

- The nominee partners with individuals, community groups, and advocates to expand their impact and reach.

Empowerment & Capacity Building

- The nominee involves older adults in decision-making and nurtures leadership within equity-deserving communities.

Award Category:

Head, Heart and Hands Award (Indigenous) – (in the process of consulting on an Indigenous name)

This award recognizes individuals, grassroots groups, programs, or initiatives that are advancing the well-being of Indigenous older adults through culturally grounded, community-led approaches.

Indigenous-Led Approaches

- The nominee is Indigenous-led and has been developed and implemented in meaningful collaboration with Indigenous Elders or Knowledge Keepers, reflecting Indigenous leadership, self-determination, and relational ways of working.

Cultural Safety and Belonging

- The nominee integrates Indigenous languages, traditions, worldviews, and healing practices to foster environments that are culturally safe and respectful of intergenerational teachings.

Impact on Indigenous Older Adults

- The nominee meaningfully supports Indigenous older adults to reclaim roles as Knowledge Keepers and leaders, enhancing community well-being and intergenerational connection.

Healing and Reconciliation

- The nominee's work addresses the intergenerational impacts of colonization, residential schools, and systemic inequities—promoting healing, dignity, and cultural renewal.

Accessibility in Diverse Settings

- The nominee ensures access to culturally familiar supports for Indigenous older adults in a range of settings, including rural, remote, and urban communities, recognizing the diversity of experiences and needs.

Award Category:

The Trailbl-Ager Award

This award recognizes an individual, group, or program that actively champions combatting ageism and promotes age-positive narratives in their community. They are a trailblazer in this work.

Advocacy & Public Awareness

- Demonstrates a strong commitment to challenging stereotypes and misconceptions about aging.

Creativity

- Uses creative methods to shift narratives about aging and older adults' contributions to society

Leadership in Policy or Systemic Change

- Drives changes in policies, workplace practices, or service delivery to promote age inclusivity

Intergenerational Connection

- Promotes understanding and collaboration between generations to reduce stereotypes

Equity & Inclusion

- Ensures efforts to address ageism are inclusive of older adults from all walks of life

Sustainability & Commitment

- Ongoing dedication to combatting ageism beyond a single initiative, and the work has the potential to inspire, expand, or be replicated in other communities

Award Category

Empowerment Award - (Champion for elder abuse response)

This award recognizes a service provider who works alongside individuals experiencing elder abuse and consistently goes above and beyond in their daily practice.

Leadership & Advocacy

- Acts as a leader in raising awareness, advocating for policy change, or driving initiatives that support elder abuse prevention and intervention

Impact on Older Adults

- Works alongside older adults experiencing elder abuse, empowering them to make informed decisions while ensuring their safety and well-being.

Empowerment

- Works to empower older adults to reclaim their independence, preserve their dignity, and ensure their security on their own terms

Innovation in Elder Abuse Response

- Implements innovative strategies or best practices to identify, prevent, and respond to elder abuse

Multi-Sector Collaboration

- Works collaboratively with healthcare providers, law enforcement, and community organizations to enhance protection for older adults

Culturally Safe & Trauma-Informed Approaches

- Uses practices that recognize historical trauma, systemic barriers, and cultural differences in addressing elder abuse.

Award Category:

The Heart of Community- Collaborator Award

This award recognizes an individual or group that has shown exceptional leadership in developing collaborative community partnerships.

Leadership in Community Collaboration

- Demonstrates exceptional leadership in building and strengthening partnerships among community organizations serving seniors.

Facilitates Cross-Sector Collaboration

- Effectively engages diverse stakeholders, which could include the older adults they hope to impact, healthcare, social services, government, nonprofits, grassroots groups, businesses, and faith-based organizations

Innovation & Impact

- Develops innovative strategies to enhance service delivery and address gaps in seniors' services, showing improvements in seniors' quality of life. Innovation could also include how those with lived experience are involved, or how partnerships are built

Sustainability

- Strives to ensure community collaborations are sustainable, with long-term impact beyond a single project or event. Sustainability can mean supporting a social movement,

being incorporated into regular practices, or being adopted by an organization whose mandate includes this work.

Inclusivity & Equity in Community Engagement

- Works to ensure that partnerships represent and serve seniors from equity-deserving groups, including Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQ+ seniors, those experiencing cognitive changes and those in rural or low-income communities

Commitment to Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building

- Supports partner organizations by sharing expertise, best practices, and resources. Is committed to strengthening the sector by fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange beyond their own community.

Eligibility & How to Submit

Who can submit? Nominations are welcome from those who want to recognize the efforts of others working hard to support older Albertans in the categories described. Please note, we are not accepting self-nominations for these awards.

Submission process: Follow the link below to access the nomination form. Nominations can be completed by clicking on the supplied link and filling out the short form. Alternatively, you may submit your nomination orally; please reach out to summit@healthyagingalberta.ca to discuss how this would work best for you. Please note **“Awards Submission”** in the title.

Selection process: The Awards submissions will be reviewed by HAA staff and adjudicated by a group of selected CBSS representatives and systems allies. To avoid any possible conflicts of interest, members of the HAA Community Leadership Council and Regional Community Developers will not be involved in scoring applications from their respective regions.

Commitment to Equity: Healthy Aging Alberta is committed to access, inclusion, and belonging, and we will be intentional in our practices during this process. Applications can be submitted by both written and oral methods. Our adjudication panel will comprise representatives from various walks of life, diverse backgrounds, and varied experiences to ensure equitable representation. To address any additional submission barriers, please email our staff at summit@healthyagingalberta.ca as soon as possible, and we will do our best to support applicants until the application deadline.

Key Dates

Deadline for Applications: Extended until July 11, 2025

Award Winner Notification: By the end of August 2025

Submit a Nomination