

Central East LHIN Patient and Family Advisory Committee Co-Chair Honoured by Health Minister

Minister's Medal Award Program Honours Excellence in Health Quality and Safety

NEWS

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Randy Filinski, a long-time resident of Pickering, dedicated volunteer, advocate for seniors' health care and co-chair of the Central East Local Health Integration Network's Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC), was recognized yesterday when Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, presented the 2018 Minister's Medals at the *Health Quality Transformation* conference.

The Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety is a competitive, annual award program that recognizes excellent work done by health care partners across the province.

The Minister's Medals were awarded to:

- one team-based initiative that demonstrated commitment to collaboration, improvements in the health system and value for quality care;
- one individual who has demonstrated leadership in focusing on quality;
- and a patient advisor who enhanced patient engagement within their community.

Randy had been nominated for the Patient/Family/Caregiver Champion Category by his PFAC co-chair Anne-Marie Yaraskavitch, a category that seeks to honour individuals who have undertaken innovative initiatives within their communities in order to improve the health care experiences of patients, families, and caregivers and enhance patient engagement.

While Alana Smith, a member of Rose Cottage Visiting Volunteers - an organization that supports patients with palliative care needs in the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN - received the Minister's Medal in the Patient/Family/Caregiver Champion Category, Randy was the only nominee in this category to be named to the Medal's Honour Roll.

Randy has a long history of volunteer leadership in the health care and social services sector, volunteering for several local Boards and Advisory Committees and contributing to the success of programs at Community Care Durham, Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Central East and Durham, the United Way, the Durham Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity Durham North, Durham West Special Olympics, the former Rouge Valley Health System Community Advisory Group, the Central East LHIN's Seniors Care Network and the Senior Friendly Committees established by the City of Pickering and the Region of Durham.

Provincially, Randy is a member of the Ontario Patient/Caregiver Advisory Table (PCAT), advising the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, from the patient/consumer perspective, on policy efforts to improve the delivery of home and community care.

In 2016, Randy was invited to join the Central East LHIN's PFAC and was selected as one of the PFAC's co-chairs in early 2017. As co-chair of the Central East LHIN PFAC, Randy has inspired and guided other patient and family advisors both within the Central East LHIN and across the province.

QUOTES

"I am very honoured to be named to the Minister's Medal Honour Roll. I look forward to continuing to work with other patients and caregivers to bring a very strong focus from a consumer point of view to all sectors of health care."

- Randy Filinski, Co-Chair, Central East LHIN Patient and Family Advisory Committee

"Randy has consistently dedicated his time and talents to developing innovative and integrated approaches to improving the health care experience of patients, families and caregivers. His leadership, supported by the perspectives he brings from the conversations he has with his networks of patients, caregivers, families, providers, planners and policy makers, has been integral to the success of our PFAC in helping to develop and deliver Central East LHIN programs, services and initiatives."

- Anne-Marie Yaraskavitch, Co-Chair, Central East LHIN Patient and Family Advisory Committee.

"Randy's work at the individual, organizational, system and provincial level is a perfect example of the type of dedication and commitment that volunteers bring to improving the health care system and is deserving of the recognition from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. We are so pleased that he, the PFAC and other patients and caregivers are working with the LHIN on the strategic co-design and co-management of the local health system."

- Dr. Barry Guppy, Interim CEO, Central East LHIN.

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- [Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care - Minister's Medal](#)
- [Central East Local Health Integration Network Patient and Family Advisory Committee](#)

For more information:

Christine Dainty

Manager, Communications

Central East LHIN

1-866-804-5446 ext. 5509