

Dietary staff in five health facilities receive achievement awards

Prince Albert Parkland Health Region: The dietary staff working in five health facilities in Prince Albert Parkland Health Region will be stepping out of the kitchen and into the limelight next week, when they are honoured for their commitment to food excellence, public service and community spirit.

The Health Care Council of the Canadian Union of Public Employees is presenting the Certificates of Recognition and Achievement to CUPE dietary staff in Canwood, Prince Albert, Shellbrook, Hafford and Leask at special award ceremonies next Tuesday and Wednesday. The events are being held in conjunction with CUPE's national Communities Day celebrations next week.

The awards, presented in three categories – Food Excellence, the People's Choice and Supporting the Local Community – recognize the work of dietary staff and other health providers who prepare hot, nutritious meals from scratch, go the extra distance to improve the quality of life for hospital patients and long-term care residents, and buy locally to support the community.

"Everyone knows the importance of nutrition to health and well-being," says CUPE Health Care Council President Gordon Campbell. "But it's particularly true for hospital patients recovering from surgeries and elderly residents living in a long-term care facilities."

The "Food Excellence Certificate" recognizes the work of dietary staff who 'slave over a hot stove' to ensure that meal time is the best part of people's days in hospitals and long-term care facilities across the province, Campbell says.

The award is only presented to facilities that prepare food with fresh ingredients and restrict their use of pre-packaged food products.

This year's recipients of the Food Excellence Award in Prince Albert Parkland

Health Region are the dietary staff at Whispering Pine Place in Canwood and Pineview Terrace Lodge in Prince Albert.

This year's People's Choice Award will be presented to the dietary staff at the Shellbrook and District Hospital, Hafford Special Care Home and the Wheatland Lodge in Leask. The award recognizes the work of dietary staff in making every meal a special occasion.

This year the union is presenting a total of 30 Certificates of Recognition and Achievement to dietary staff in five health regions.

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In Prince Albert Parkland, the Certificates of Recognition and Achievement will be presented in two of the three categories as follows:

Food Excellence Award

- October 3 Pineview Terrace Lodge in Prince Albert at 11 a.m.
- October 3 Whispering Pine Place, Canwood at 12:30 p.m.

People's Choice Award

- October 2 Shellbrook and District Hospital at 1:00 a.m.
- October 3 Wheatland Lodge in Leask at 2 p.m.
- October 3 Hafford Special Care Home at 3 p.m.