

Dietary staff in four health facilities receive achievement awards

Sun Country Health Region: The dietary staff working in four health facilities in Sun Country 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 Lampman, Wawota, Radville and Fillmore at special award ceremonies next Monday and Tuesday. 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 are the dietary staff at the Lampman Health Centre and Deerview Lodge in Wawota.

This year's People's Choice Award will be presented to the dietary staff at the Fillmore Health Centre, who make every meal a special occasion, while the Supporting the Local Community Award will be presented to the dietary staff at the Radville Marian Health Centre.

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In Sun Country, the Certificates of Recognition and Achievement will be presented as follows:

Food Excellence Award

October 1 - Deerview Lodge - Wawota - 10:00 am

October 1 - Lampman Health Centre - 2:00 pm

Supporting the Local Community Award

October 2 - Radville Marian Health Centre - 10:00 am

People's Choice Award

October 2 - Fillmore Health Centre - 2:00 pm