

2025 National Volunteer Awards

Introduction

Following the groundbreaking work of Nobel laureate Sir Frederick Banting and his colleagues, groups of dedicated volunteers began gathering across the country in the service of supporting people living with diabetes. The combination of resources between these groups eventually led to the creation of the Canadian Diabetes Association in 1953, and then Diabetes Canada in 2017. Recognizing our organization was built upon a foundation of dedicated volunteers, healthcare professionals, community and corporate partners, we celebrate those who help us to achieve what we couldn't possibly do alone. In recognition of all the generous volunteers who host events, participate in fundraising events, research and compile valuable data, deliver presentations in the community or virtually, open doors, inspire others, share their own lived experience, care or stand up for those living with diabetes, it is not only our duty to recognize and celebrate their contributions, but it's also our honour. This document is a guide to the national awards for volunteers and community partners of Diabetes Canada. Chances are, you know someone eligible—and we encourage you to nominate them today by [filling in this nomination form](#).

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Volunteer Engagement Team by emailing volunteer@diabetes.ca. Thank you for doing your part to recognize the incredible contributions of our volunteers and community partners!

Sincerely

Diabetes Canada's Volunteer Engagement Team

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How to Submit National Volunteer Award Nominations

Submit all national volunteer award nominations online using the official Diabetes Canada National Volunteer Awards nomination form by no later than Saturday, May 3 at 11:59 PM (PDT). [See full details on how to nominate a volunteer.](#)

Note: All national volunteer award nominations must be accompanied by one letter of recommendation or support from at least one person who works at Diabetes Canada other than the nominator or nominee themselves and must have prior consent from the nominee and/or parent/guardian where required. For all letters please email to volunteers@diabetes.ca with the subject line "Supporting Nomination Letter For " and include the name of the nominee, by no later than Saturday, May 3 by 11:59 PM (PDT).

The Charles H. Best Award

Description:

This award recognizes a healthcare professional who has made a significant difference in improving the quality of life of individuals living with diabetes across Canada. This is an individual who volunteers with Diabetes Canada or advocates for the organization's work in an unpaid volunteer capacity.

Eligibility:

The nominee must be an accredited healthcare professional who is pursuing work supported or endorsed by the Diabetes Canada Healthcare Professional Membership and is someone who advocates for Diabetes Canada's work as a volunteer (meaning they are not staff and are not paid to do their work).

National Young Volunteer Award

Description:

The National Young Volunteer Award celebrates the invaluable contributions of youth in advancing Diabetes Canada's mission and goals. Designed to recognize individuals up to age 29 who have made significant contributions to our organization as a volunteer, this award aims to encourage and inspire their continued engagement and commitment to our cause.

Eligibility:

The candidates must be between 13 and 29 years of age.

- Be considered role models who demonstrate responsible behaviour, living with or without diabetes.
- Be a volunteer of Diabetes Canada in either an official or unofficial capacity
- Have contributed to the work of Diabetes Canada in some way. This may include fund development or advocacy work, or the delivery of programs & services.
- Demonstrate that they worked with Diabetes Canada because of their personal interest in its mission.

National Volunteers of the Year Award

Description:

This award honours volunteers, either individuals or groups, who have gone above and beyond in supporting the work of Diabetes Canada. The nominee's geographic location, and any other extenuating circumstances, will be taken into consideration during the selection process. The individual can be nominated posthumously.

This would include either one of the following:

- Outstanding dedication (over a minimum period of 2 years) where an individual's dedication and exemplary commitment and reliability have made Diabetes Canada a vital and responsive organization for people living with or affected by diabetes; *or*
- Outstanding achievement where an individual or group whose outstanding accomplishments have made an impact in greatly advancing Diabetes Canada's mission.

Eligibility:

The individuals or groups:

- Must demonstrate that they have made a significant contribution towards the fulfillment of Diabetes Canada's mission, or
- Their outstanding dedication is demonstrated by having volunteered for a minimum of 2 years.

National Advocacy Leadership Award

Description:

This award recognizes a Diabetes Canada Healthcare Professional Member, or a grassroots advocacy volunteer or volunteer group who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, commitment, and dedication in advancing public policy in the interests of people living with diabetes and by the advocacy strategy of Diabetes Canada.

Eligibility:

- Must be a Diabetes Canada's Healthcare Professional Member, or a grassroots advocacy volunteer or group.
- Demonstrate that their advocacy work applies to the advocacy strategy/goals of Diabetes Canada.

Additional terms:

- Any possibility that an individual or organization could exploit winning this award for personal profit or commercial advantage will be taken into consideration by the Awards Committee.
- Member(s) of Diabetes Canada's Board of Directors or the National Awards Committee are not eligible for nomination for the award unless under exceptional circumstances.
- This award is intended to recognize current advocacy activities.
- A nomination may be resubmitted in a subsequent year.

The Innovation Award

Description:

Nominees for this award have recognized new and better ways to address a need in the diabetes community despite the many demands, and sometimes too few resources, faced by the non-profit sector.

Nominees demonstrate a clear and compelling vision and have found innovative, creative, and efficient solutions to further Diabetes Canada's mission and make a difference in the lives of people living with diabetes.

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- Demonstrate innovation in approach or strategy.
- Be a volunteer, who is not paid to either engage with or advocate for Diabetes Canada (such as third-party events).
- Have contributed significantly to the organization's mission.