

Terms of Reference

Awards Committee

1. Purpose

The committee is responsible for reviewing award nominations each year, selecting a preferred nominee and making a recommendation to the Doctors Nova Scotia Board for approval.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

Each year the Awards Committee invites nominations for the following awards:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Community Family Physician of the Year Award
- Community Specialist of the Year Award
- Physician Health Promotion Award
- Dr. William Grigor Award
- Outstanding Medical Student Award
- Outstanding Resident Award
- Dr. Clement Ligoure Award (special discretionary award)
- Doctors Nova Scotia Senior Membership Award
- CMA Honourary Membership Award

The Committee must select a preferred nominee based on the award criteria and the documentation provided in the nomination package. In cases where there is more than one deserving nominee, which is often the case, the Committee will decide which nomination offers the most compelling case.

The Committee is also responsible for regularly assessing the awards program and criteria and making recommendations to the Board regarding program enhancements when required.

Criteria for the nominations and awards are outlined in Appendices A & B. Additional selection criteria for the Committee is included in Appendix C.

3. Committee Membership

The Awards Committee is comprised of the Chair of the Board of Directors of Doctors Nova Scotia, who acts as Chair of the Committee, two members of the Doctors Nova Scotia Board of Directors; the Chair of the Member EDI(R)A Committee; and two non-Board members.

When selecting committee members every effort will be made to ensure the committee reflects the diversity of the membership.

A new committee is selected each year.

4. Committee Meetings

Frequency of Meetings

The committee will meet at least once a year by teleconference/Zoom, usually in December/January. The Chair will determine if any additional meetings are required.

Quorum and Voting

A minimum of three committee members will comprise a quorum. The preferred nominee for each award is selected by majority vote of the committee members in attendance at the meeting. The Committee Chair will cast the deciding vote only if required in the event of a tie.

5. Accountability

The Awards Committee is advisory to and accountable to the Board of Directors of Doctors Nova Scotia. The committee will recommend award recipients for approval by the Board of Directors.

On occasions when award deadlines for approval do not align with the Board’s meeting schedule, the Executive Committee will have the authority to review and approve the Awards Committee’s recommendations.

APPENDIX A – Criteria for Nominations

APPENDIX B – Selection Criteria for Awards

APPENDIX C – Selection Criteria for Committee

APPENDIX A – Criteria for Nominations

1. Nominators must be a member of Doctors Nova Scotia (DNS) in good standing. Self-nominations are ineligible.
2. Members are eligible for nominations if they are a member of DNS and fall into one of the following membership categories* (see [membership definitions](#)):
 - Full members
 - Life members
 - Retired members
 - Student
 - Residents/fellows
 - Members on Leave

**Nominators can contact DNS to confirm the membership category of their nominee if needed.*

3. Nominations must include the required documentation consisting of:
 - a completed nomination form;
 - a detailed letter of nomination providing evidence of your nominee's outstanding or significant contributions relevant to the award;**
 - two additional letters of support from at least one other Nova Scotian physician (second letter can include community partners, allied health professionals, organizations who have directly benefited from the nominees work); and
 - the nominee's curriculum vitae (maximum five pages) or an outline of the nominee's education, work experience (or career to date), and current medical practice (if applicable)

***Nominations are evaluated on the contents of the nomination package, so please be clear and concise in demonstrating how the nominee meets the criteria.*

4. A nomination may be re-submitted in a subsequent year by the nominator. If a nominee does not receive an award in the year the nomination is submitted, the Awards Committee can choose to bring a nomination forward to the following year.
5. Awards may be given posthumously at the discretion of the Awards Committee. The Committee will make that determination on a case-by-case basis.
6. Any member of the Doctors Nova Scotia Board of Directors is not eligible for nomination to DNS awards, unless under exceptional circumstances.
7. Doctors Nova Scotia is under no obligation to present the awards annually. Awards will be granted only if suitable nominations have been received.
8. A nominee is not eligible to receive:
 - more than one award per year, or
 - the same award more than once in his/her career. A list of past award recipients can be found on the [Doctors Nova Scotia website](#).
9. Priority will be given to nominees belonging to a historically underrepresented and/or marginalized group, such as Indigenous peoples, African Nova Scotians, people of colour, newcomers to Canada, LGBTQSIA+ people, or people with disabilities

APPENDIX B – Selection Criteria for Awards

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Candidates must:

- have made an outstanding contribution to the medical profession and to the people of Nova Scotia. The accomplishment must:
 - result in raising the standards of medical practice, or
 - involve an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the art and science of medicine.

COMMUNITY FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Family physician candidates must:

- have made an outstanding contribution to at least one of the following in rural/non-Halifax based communities of Nova Scotia:
 - the health of individuals;
 - various community groups; and/or
 - non-profit organizations.

COMMUNITY SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

Specialist candidates must:

- have made an outstanding contribution to at least one of the following in rural/non-Halifax based communities of Nova Scotia:
 - the health of individuals;
 - various community groups; and/or
 - non-profit organizations.

PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROMOTION AWARD

Candidates must:

- have made an outstanding contribution to health promotion or safety and preventative care among Nova Scotians.

DR. WILLIAM GRIGOR AWARD

Candidates must:

- be under the age of 50; and
- have made an outstanding contribution benefiting the health of Nova Scotians.

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD

Candidates must:

- attend Dalhousie University or Université de Sherbrooke
- have demonstrated exemplary leadership, commitment, and dedication within and/or outside the medical community, including but not limited to research, patient care and/or medical education

OUTSTANDING RESIDENT AWARD

Candidates must:

- have demonstrated exemplary leadership, commitment, and dedication within and/or outside the medical community, including but not limited to research, patient care and/or medical education in Nova Scotia

DR. CLEMENT LIGOURE AWARD (SPECIAL DISCRETIONARY AWARD)

Candidates must:

- have shown excellence in guiding Nova Scotians through unprecedented times

DOCTORS NOVA SCOTIA SENIOR MEMBERSHIP

Candidates must:

- be a member of Doctors Nova Scotia in good standing for the immediately preceding 10-year period;
- be at least 65 years old; and
- be seen as having earned great respect and high regard in the medical community.

CMA HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Candidates must:

- be a member in good standing of the CMA for the immediately preceding 10-year period
- be at least 65 years old; and
- have distinguished themselves in their medical careers by making a significant contribution to the community and to the profession.

APPENDIX C – Selection Criteria for Committee

The committee will seek diversity in gender, race, specialty, age, geography and practice type to reflect the diversity of DNS membership and Nova Scotia communities.

Some additional determinants that may help the Committee distinguish between the nominees:

(This is just a guideline. The list of questions can be revised or customized as needed.)

Name of Candidate:			
Award:			
	Yes (2 points)	Somewhat (1 point)	No (0 points)
Has the nominator clearly demonstrated how the nominee meets the criteria?			
Are many people positively impacted by the nominee or his/her work?			
Does it seem that this contribution would provide benefits beyond the community/province for which it was intended?			
Does this contribution serve a high risk or under-represented population?			
Are there very few doing similar work...is it unique?			
Is this work leading-edge or ground-breaking?			
Would it appear that the physician had to make personal or professional sacrifices?			
Diversity - Would the nominee be considered to represent a segment of the physician population that hasn't or rarely received this award in the past (i.e., gender, age, specialty, underrepresented and/or marginalized group)			
Sub-total:			
TOTAL:			