

# FLAG OF HOPE AWARD FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA CRITERIA

## SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY OF CANADA

### What is the purpose of the Flag of Hope Award for Schizophrenia?

This award has been established by the Schizophrenia Society of Canada to recognize and encourage people with schizophrenia who, in spite of the discrimination associated with mental illness, have shown significant self-determination in their recovery process. They will also have made outstanding voluntary contributions in their community towards the SSC mission. *To improve the quality of life for those affected by schizophrenia and psychosis through education, support programs, public policy, and research.*

### Who is Eligible?

- Candidate must be a person who has schizophrenia or psychosis.
- Candidates must have shown exceptional courage and determination to meet personal goals regarding:
  - Education
  - vocational and skill development
  - family and/or peer involvement
  - participation in community activities as a volunteer
- Candidates who have shown that there really is hope for schizophrenia and that recovery is possible, in spite of the barriers that they face every day. That hope may be shown in the form of public speaking, support to others, or any other method by which their knowledge or expertise has made a difference in the area of schizophrenia. Some of these candidates will have given their time to helping schizophrenia societies dispel the myths and misconceptions about schizophrenia.

### Who can nominate a Candidate?

- A member from the chapter/branch, provincial organization or a provincial or national board of directors may nominate for this award.
- Nominators may not nominate more than one candidate in this category annually.
- Nominators may not nominate members of their own family.
- Members of the awards committee may not nominate anyone or be nominated as a candidate.
- All nomination forms must include signed confirmation of support from one endorser. Staff may formally endorse but may not nominate a candidate.

## How do I Nominate a Candidate?

Nominators must provide the following:

- A fully completed Nomination Form (which can be obtained online through the SSC website: [www.schizophrenia.ca](http://www.schizophrenia.ca) or through the SSC Office).
- A full and detailed description of the candidate's volunteerism and achievement.

## What are the Areas of Personal Achievement or Volunteer Service?

- Achievement of personal goals as noted under "Who is Eligible?"
- Participation in volunteer activities that illustrate the important role they can play in the community.
- Provide support and help to families, friends and others with schizophrenia.
- Provide families and friends with practical information about how to respond to schizophrenia.
- Provide support to people with schizophrenia.
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the basic facts and issues of schizophrenia and recovery.
- Advocate for the rights of persons with schizophrenia to justice, equity and quality medical, social and education services.
- Advocate for a family's right to justice, equity and quality medical, social and education services.
- Help government and other key stakeholders to understand and respond to schizophrenia.
- Provide health care and service professionals with information enabling them to respond to schizophrenia.
- Demonstrate leadership in support groups.

The Schizophrenia Society of Canada Awards Committee will consider the following characteristics of the nominated candidates:

- Personal involvement: number of years of service; personal challenges the candidate had to overcome (i.e.: health, age and any other extraordinary challenges).
- Perseverance: against odds such as discrimination, political pressures, lack of cooperation and help from the mental health system, sharing their innermost struggles and hopes.
- Innovation: in areas of public awareness, education, fundraising, and/or advocacy; ability shown to be creative and inspirational in these areas and has promoted participation of people with schizophrenia.
- Number of People who benefited by their work: degree of leadership displayed and range of activities in which person participated; number of people assisted.
- Impact: on chapters, provincial and/or national level(s) of the organization.