

Bill Jefferies Family Member Award Criteria  
**SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY OF CANADA**

**What is the purpose of the Bill Jefferies Family Member Award?**

As the original founder of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada (SSC), Bill Jefferies has made an immeasurable contribution towards the support of caregiving families who have relatives with schizophrenia.

This award was established to recognize and encourage those family members of persons with schizophrenia who, in spite of the discrimination associated with the illness and the personal difficulty endured by their role as caregivers, have made outstanding voluntary contributions towards the SSC's 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?**

- Candidates must have or have had a family member with schizophrenia.
- Candidates must have given their time, talent and energy to help their fellow family members and/or persons with schizophrenia in their journey of recovery with this illness.
- Candidates must have undertaken such activities on a voluntary basis

**Who can nominate a Candidate?**

- A member from a schizophrenia provincial organization or national board of directors or any staff of the SSC, provincial societies or chapters 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 award 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 related to working with people with schizophrenia and/or families.

**What are the Areas of Volunteer Service to promote a quality if life for those affected by schizophrenia and psychosis?**

The candidate's contribution must be done in Canada and be related to one or more of the following areas:

- Providing support and help to families and friends.
- Providing families and friends with practical information about how to respond to schizophrenia.
- Providing support to people with schizophrenia.
- Increasing public awareness and understanding of the basic facts and issues of schizophrenia and recovery.
- Promoting research to improve the treatment of and recovery from schizophrenia and or in finding a cure.
- Advocating for the rights of persons with schizophrenia to justice, equity and quality medical, social and education services.
- Advocating for the family's right to justice, equity and quality medical, social and education services.
- Helping government and other key stakeholders to understand and respond to schizophrenia.
- Providing health care and service professionals with information enabling them to respond to schizophrenia.

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

- Personal involvement: number of years of service, commitment to the SSC's mission, goals and objectives.
- 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 the meaningful 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 chapter, provincial and/or national level(s) of the organization.