Women's Municipal Leadership Award

Who deserves an honour or an award?

The Women's Municipal Leadership Award program celebrates the women and those identifying as women who make our communities a better place to live. This awards program acknowledges the women in municipal government who have made a mark on community and have inspired others during her career.

Each year the MNL's Women's Caucus will present two awards to women committed to the work they do within the municipal sector of Newfoundland and Labrador.

1) **Achievement Award**: will be presented to an individual relatively new their role as a municipal leader, however, in that short time has demonstrated guidance or management which led to specific actions and/or observable changes or accomplishments within their community;

2) **Inspiration Award:** whose long-time dedication to local government has benefited the people of their community and has inspired other women to step forward into leadership roles.

If you think your nominee demonstrates these criteria and that their contribution stands out from other people's, please consider nominating them for one of our recognition awards. Deadline for nominations is October 1, 2019.

How do I write a compelling nomination?

In order for your nomination to stand out against the many others we receive, you must explain and include evidence and clear examples of what makes your nominee so exceptional.

Don't just say your nominee is outstanding – prove it!

It's important to use specific and concrete examples to illustrate how your nominee meets each of the eligibility and award criteria. Provide examples of how your nominee has demonstrated outstanding character and is a deserving candidate for the honour or award.

Show how they have:

- encouraged and exemplified the virtue of good citizenship;

- touched or enriched the lives of others, particularly those within your community and/or region;
- shown ongoing initiative, leadership and dedication;
- earned the respect of their peers and become a role model in the municipal sector;
- demonstrated innovation or creativity in delivering lasting results.

A compelling nomination should also describe as vividly and precisely as possible the difference your nominee's contribution has made and show why it has been important. Include details such as:

- how were things before the achievement;
- what knowledge your nominee had of the situation and what actions they choose to take;
- the scale of the achievement and whether it is completed or ongoing;
- the achievement's sustainability and impact on the community or province and how it has enriched the lives of others;
- what made this an outstanding achievement – indicate any extraordinary circumstances or challenges the nominee faced (include statistics or historical background if applicable);
- what makes your nominee different from others doing the same thing?

Here is an actual reference that illustrates how a nominee has demonstrated outstanding character and meets many of the criteria mentioned above:

"She has made a measurable impact over the past 15 years as a passionate advocate for local government. Her volunteer work and committees of council are as varied as her skills, and they include: sports and recreation; local economic development; public speaking about the need for diversity within the sector and empowering women; not to mention simply being a friend to those who are most in need of one… She has also directly changed the political landscape for the women following in her footsteps. She has also frequently been asked to speak at presentations to the business community as well as to appear as a panelist in a variety of local workshops designed to empower women to consider either volunteering or committing to a career in municipal politics."

It is achievements and effects of this kind and scale that deserve an honour or award and that will convince a selection panel to consider your nominee.

Give different perspectives - don't tell the same story three times!

In addition to the description of the achievement, we also require testimonial letters from two individuals (other than the nominator) who support the nomination.

The testimonial letters should:

- be written by individuals who know the nominee well enough to be able to talk about the impact of their achievement from first-hand experience;
- be current and written specifically for the honour or award you are nominating for;
- provide various examples and perspectives.

The testimonial letters should not:

- simply state that the authors support the nomination – they need to provide more information about the nominee and their achievement.

Keep it simple.

Remember that longer doesn't necessarily mean better. When presenting your nominee, keep your explanations clear and to the point while ensuring there is enough information for the selection panel to make their decision.

Ready to nominate?

We hope that you have found this guide useful. If you are now ready to nominate someone:

- Read the eligibility criteria and instructions carefully.
- Prepare in advance and give yourself (and your testimonial letter writers) lots of time to complete the nomination package before the deadline.
- Gather your testimonial letters as well as any additional materials, if applicable.
- Submit your nomination package before the October 1, 2019 deadline.
- Remember that nominations are accepted all year, so if you miss the current deadline, eligible nominations will be considered in the following year.

Questions?

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us:

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