



City Of Whitehorse Announces Kim Solonick as Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient

WHITEHORSE, May 4, 2020 – The Yukon Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA-YT) was proud to nominate Kim Solonick as our candidate for the City of Whitehorse Volunteer of the Year Award during National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, 2020.

This was a tremendous opportunity to recognize Kim’s contribution to mental health awareness and advocacy in the community and across the territory over the past eight years and to show just how much we appreciate her commitment to the CMHA.

It was a chance to show Kim that her time, energy and commitment over the years was doing more than just inspiring others to volunteer, it was making a real difference in the lives of Yukoners.

On April 22, Whitehorse City Council agreed. Kim Solonick was announced as this year's recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award, an outstanding honour for an exceptional volunteer.

Mayor Dan Curtis acknowledged Kim's contribution, and highlighted just how challenging this decision can be with so many extraordinary candidates.

"There can only be one Volunteer of the Year and it's the hardest decision that the (selection) committee has," says Curtis. "We're just so grateful for the work that (volunteers) continue to do for all of us."

"Volunteering is so important to our community, and we are thrilled that the City of Whitehorse has recognized Kim's passion and dedication as a CMHA volunteer," says Tiffanie Tasane, Executive Director of the CMHA Yukon Division. "Kim's contribution to CMHA-YT and to mental health awareness and advocacy in the territory has been exceptional."

Kim has served in a leadership role with the CMHA Yukon Division since its founding. Eight years ago she played a key role to help form the Mental Health Association of Yukon, which emerged out of a subcommittee of the Anti-Poverty Coalition.

Since putting her name forward to serve as an inaugural board member, Kim has served as secretary, vice-chair, chair of the board, and has chaired and sat on numerous subcommittees.

Beyond her board experience and work to support key partnerships, Kim learned first hand about the issues and challenges surrounding mental health 20 years ago when mental illness had a very personal effect on her and her family. Finding little support, she took action, creating the Family Caregiver Support Group to address a gap and ensure others would get the support they need.

"She has literally done it all at the CMHA-YT, and has been instrumental to the creation and advancement of our organization," says Tasane. "This award is genuinely well deserved."

In addition, Kim has served as Chair of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues and as a director with the Arctic Institute of Community Based Research and Yukon Women in Mining.

"It's so important that we highlight the countless hours that you selflessly dedicate to your community," says Mayor Curtis in his video tribute on the [City of Whitehorse](#) website.

“Thank you for generously giving back to the organizations that matter so much to you. You inspire us to give more and to make a real difference in our city.”

We couldn't agree more. Congratulations Kim, and from everyone at the CMHA-YT and the countless Yukoners you have assisted and supported over the years, thank you.

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