



2016 MEDAL RECIPIENT

Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety

Individual Champion

Leah Bergstrom

Leah Bergstrom is the Aboriginal Patient Navigator with the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program, located in the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN region. Ms. Bergstrom's outstanding work addresses the cultural and spiritual needs of patients and their families. She networks with North Simcoe Muskoka First Nation, Inuit, Métis communities and non-Aboriginal partners for the betterment of her patients. She leverages her skills to mentor other providers on how to provide culturally competent care. She has worked diligently in her role to create an environment in which patients, family members and the broader community receive safe and supportive services in which their diverse needs are respected and met.

Through recognizing and addressing each unique patient's health literacy abilities, Leah has helped patients have a better understanding of their health and treatment programs, has increased patient awareness and compliance and has improved patient outcomes. Ms. Bergstrom is recognized in the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN as a system leader who has the capacity to inspire her peers. Her ability to effectively educate providers and staff throughout the region on topics such as cultural safety and the work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has gone a long way in ensuring the needs of Aboriginal patients are being met. Aboriginal Patient Navigation services have been offered to patients and family members of the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program since fall 2013 as part of the Cancer Program's commitment to the Aboriginal Cancer Strategy.

*The information provided above is taken directly from 2016 Minister's Medal applications –
Facts and information herein have been updated in 2016 but have not been verified for accuracy.*