



**ANNUAL PATIENT SAFETY CHAMPION AWARD AND GRANTS
TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCED BY INSTITUTE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (June 8, 2017): Steve Geletchuk, Manager, Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Program, Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) is the winner of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety's 2017 Patient Safety Champion Award. The award was bestowed at the Institute's Annual General Meeting on June 7, 2017 in Winnipeg.

An activist in disaster preparedness, Geletchuk had a vision to combine rural disaster plans with incident command to create one operation for ease of understanding and use. With a background in military, fire and paramedic training Geletchuk has brought a wealth of knowledge to his current role as the Manager of Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (DEPP) in PMH.

For the past 10 years Steve has taken to heart the responsibility of patient safety by implementing, educating and managing emergency preparedness in 55 health care facilities covering 64,000 square kilometers. Geletchuk's leadership of the Prairie Mountain Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Program includes:

- All hospital colour code exercises and events
- Incident Management Education and Roll out to 8500 staff
- Creation of eLearning tools for the 8500 staff to remain current with their individual roles in emergency and disaster settings
- The Emergency Response Messenger System - orientation, education, training, disaster exercise coordination
- Fire Prevention training and program management
- Annual fire safety inspections for all health facilities in the region and providing orientation
- Site specific fire plans for each facility, and standardized fire drill procedures were implemented and quick reference guides of the Disaster Plan are in all corridors
- Measures to deal with planned power outages, Manitoba Hydro shut downs, and storm related incidents
- development and implementation of an Electronic Incident Reporting System that allows for real time reporting and tracking of all disaster events
- monitors the annual provincial flood forecast to assess its impact on the health system and infrastructure

PREMIER MEMBERS

Above all, Steve does all his job functions with the highest level of compassion. He shields victims of heart attacks and motor vehicle accidents from public view. He took the time to talk with patients to alleviate their fears during the flood of 2011. He always ensures patients are handled with the highest level of dignity and protection, even during disaster-style events.

Steve's commitment to others does not stop at the hospital doors. He has been a fire fighter for more than 20 years and served as a Deputy Fire Chief. Steve was awarded a Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal by the Governor General of Canada in 2015. Geletchuk was the recipient of Accreditation Canada's Leading Practice award for his conception of the Assiniboine RHA Emergency Response Messenger System in 2013.

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety also recognized its Dr. John Wade Patient Safety Initiatives Grant winners. The grant recognizes projects in our communities that advance the practice, awareness and knowledge of patient safety.

Rachel Ganaden, Manager, Quality and Innovation, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Home Care Program, was awarded a grant to improve medication safety in the WRHA Home Care Program. More than one quarter (27%) of WRHA home care clients receive medication assistance. Review of occurrence report data for the year demonstrated that the most common medication incident was an error of omission (the client not receiving their medication). A safety culture survey revealed that there were key institutional factors negatively impacting staff openness to talk about and report errors. The plan was to

- look at factors critically contributing to medication errors
- identify strategic medication safety improvement initiatives, and
- support the growth of a patient safety culture within the WRHA Home Care Program

By educating staff on safety science, identifying staff safety concerns, implementing plans to address these concerns, obtaining leadership support, and sharing stories, there was a 9.7% positive change in perception of patient safety culture. There was a marked increase in the volume of occurrence reporting and 100% of participants felt that they learned something new that could be applied to improve their day to day work.

Pearl Buhler, Tenant Resource Coordinator at HavenGroup Life Services for Seniors in Steinbach, Manitoba also received a grant. Her project was to ensure tenants of Woodhaven Manor and Parkview Apartments were using mobility equipment that was safe. She recognized that if a tenant had an injury as the result of their equipment failure, there would be reluctance to trust this equipment in the future, subsequently restricting their ongoing efforts to be mobile. The grant money made it possible for a mobility and healthcare supply company to consult with the seniors and have 20 mobility aids examined, adjusted and repaired.

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BACKGROUND: Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety Awards and Grants

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety's grants are named in honour of Dr. John G. Wade. The University of Manitoba medical school graduate is internationally-recognized for his pioneering work in patient safety. Wade can be described as the "Father of Patient Safety in Canada". His leadership led to the creation of both the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety.

Patient safety can be defined as activities that caregivers, patients and families engage in to prevent harm to patients and work towards providing the safest possible care. Examples are disclosing when things go wrong, studying patient incidents to find ways to prevent them, apologizing, creating standard procedures such as checklists, and creating cultures that are open to patient and caregiver team input. High-Res photographs of award and grant recipients can be found at www.mips.ca.

Created in 2004, the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of healthcare for Manitobans. The Institute's patient safety initiatives like *It's Safe To Ask* have also been replicated across Canada and internationally.

High-Res photographs of award and grant recipients can be obtained by calling MIPS @ 204-927-6477.