



## INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PATIENT SAFETY CHAMPION AWARD AND GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (July 8, 2015)** The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety is pleased to announce its list of patient safety award winners for 2015. The annual awards celebrate those working in the healthcare system and community whose work and efforts demonstrate exceptional passion and commitment for improving patient safety.

Monique Wickenko is the Patient Safety Champion Award recipient for 2015. The Grace Hospital Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention Physiotherapist is being recognized for her exceptional work as an educator for the Safe Patient Handling program as well as the co facilitator and creator of “Move to Improve” and “I’ve Got Your Back”.

Wickenko’s contributions have reduced risk and harm to patients and staff as well as given greater dignity and efficiencies in the transferring of the deceased. She is a highly-valued patient and staff educator, colleague mentor and patient safety advocate for her clients. Her passion for patient safety and the protection and well-being of patients and her fellow staff have made her an educator who engages others to follow in her footsteps, thereby broadening the culture of patient safety at Grace Hospital.

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety also awarded \$15,000 of funding to three projects through its Dr. John Wade Patient Safety Initiatives Grant. The grant recognizes projects in our communities that advance the practice, awareness and knowledge of patient safety.

- Maureen Keelan of Age & Opportunity Support Services for Older Adults developed 11 lesson plans, flashcards and worksheets on hand hygiene, medication safety, flu shots, and patients' rights and responsibilities. Instructor training began in the spring and the lessons will be used in entry sessions and English Conversation circles for older adult immigrants beginning in September 2015.
- Carol Dolynchuk of the Vita and District Resource Council has received funding to help her on her mission to raise awareness of the importance of servicing and maintaining walkers and wheelchair brakes, the dangers of tripping on mats and rugs and the importance of proper disposal of old medications. Her group hosted a Safety First presentation where community members from the RM of Stuartburn could bring in old medications and their mobility devices for assessment and repair as well as participate in a falls prevention education session.

Page 2 Next

### PREMIER MEMBERS

- Genie Barnaby, Seniors Resource Coordinator for Home Assistance at Neepawa & District and Rrain Prior, Director of Programming for the Viscount Cultural Centre for the Arts were awarded monies to assist them in creating and staging “Reunion”, a theatre production highlighting patient safety issues around family and advocacy as well as medication safety. The play received rave review when it was performed by Whitemud Comedy Company in Dauphin and Neepawa. They plan to perform the presentation in schools beginning in autumn 2015 and post one of the stage performances on YouTube.

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.

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.

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 on the next page.

---30---

**Media Contact:**

Denise Widmeyer

204-927-6471

[dwidmeyer@mips.ca](mailto:dwidmeyer@mips.ca)

## Dr. John Wade Patient Safety Initiative Grant 2015 Winners



From left to right is Rrain Prior, Maureen Keelan, Dr. Wade and Carol Dolynchuk. Absent: Genie Barnby

## Patient Safety Champion Award Winner 2015



Monique Wichenko