

CNA Presentation of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals

Congratulatory Remarks
by Barb Mildon, RN, PhD, CHE, CCHN(C)

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CNA president Barb Mildon welcomes the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, minister of health:

It is a true honour to have the federal minister of health, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, here to personally acknowledge your contributions to nursing and health care. I think it is fair to say that the minister's presence is very meaningful to all of us here today and to the nurses of Canada. . . . Thank you on behalf of the Canadian Nurses Association.

Following congratulatory remarks from the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, CNA president Barb Mildon delivered the following remarks:

Welcome. I can feel the excitement and energy here this evening! And, I must say that I never want to be in a room with so many registered nurses without thanking you for choosing nursing!

This is a magic moment for each of our award recipients and a memorable career milestone.

It is an honour to be here on behalf of the Canadian Nurses Association. CNA exists to strengthen, empower, inform, support, challenge and unite all of Canada's RNs — and in the process, to maximize the impact our profession has on our nation's health. And, it exists for the purpose of cultivating and sustaining excellence in nursing.

Of course, excellence in nursing is the very reason we are here this evening. Each of you models it in your everyday work and efforts. You are exemplars of our profession, and I am so proud to be with you tonight. As many of you know, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canadians to honour Her Majesty's service to our country. It is also a way to recognize individuals who have dedicated themselves to the service of their fellow citizens, their community and their country.

Today's recipients . . . leaders, educators, researchers, administrators, innovators in nursing . . . are truly deserving of this national honour. Think about the magnificent role you play in advancing nursing and health . . . whether developing innovations that make a difference to nursing practice, conducting research that is positively influencing care, advocating for impactful public policy, teaching new and veteran nurses, or moving Canada closer to a health system that we all need and deserve . . .

To all the recipients here with us, and to those you could not make it in person, many thanks for your leadership, commitment, passion, pride and giving your best to *our* profession. A special thank you to

your family members and companions who have joined you here tonight. I know they have been supporters and contributors to your success.

You represent the best in nursing leadership!

There are so many more words I could say to celebrate and acknowledge you tonight, but I know it is not words you will remember from tonight; rather, it is the way you feel. So please bask in the glow that your contributions have created tonight, and I wish you lasting energy and affirmation from this special award.

Congratulations to all recipients and enjoy the festivities ahead!

Following the presentation of medals, and after thanking each recipient individually, CNA president Barb Mildon delivered these closing remarks:

Dr. Peter Jensen, a Canadian sports psychologist, has said “imagery is the language of performance.” Those words are a tribute to each of you, because I know you had an image in your minds of how to make things better or solve a problem, and through your persistence and determination you brought that image to life.

I hope you will each walk a little taller, be more confident and be proud of all you have done and all you will continue to do.

Thank you and good night.