



Exciting News Regarding the 2017 Krista Sepp Awards

From: Cathy Paul, President and CEO of Kinark Child and Family Services and Christine Gaitens, President of the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care

To: Community Partners and OACYC Members

Hello,

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some important changes to the Krista Sepp Memorial Awards.

The Krista Sepp Memorial Awards were established by Kinark Child and Family Services in 1991 to honour the memory of Kinark staff, Krista Sepp, who lost her life on February 3, 1989 while performing her duties as a child and youth worker (CYW). The Awards are presented each year to two child and youth workers from organizations across the province who have made exemplary contributions to their field of practice and who emulate the values for which Krista was known.

These awards benefited from ongoing support from many child and youth-serving agencies across the province. This past May marked the 25th anniversary of the awards celebration and once again, we had the pleasure to honour the work of CYWs from across the province, and in particular, the incredible work and dedication of all 21 nominees and the two Award winners for 2016.

With the achievement of such a significant milestone, these awards have become recognised as an opportunity to promote the critical role of CYWs in the field of child and youth work across the province. Kinark and the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC), the provincial association representing Child and Youth Care Practitioners in the province, are excited to announce that we will be working together over the coming months to transfer the stewardship of the Krista Sepp Memorial Awards from Kinark to the OACYC. Beginning in the 2017 season, the Krista Sepp Memorial Awards will be included in the OACYC's bi-annual conference and recognition event. We are pleased that this will enable us to reach even more CYWs and organizations across the province and to continue to promote the essential work that they do for children and youth in Ontario.

In the coming weeks, you will receive information about the 2017 Awards nomination process and celebration from the OACYC. Kinark will continue to be involved and participate in these significant awards as a participating child and youth service agency.

We look forward to working with all of you to celebrate this partnership and to recognize the important contribution that CYWs make to our work with children and youth.

Cathy Paul and Christine Gaitens