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MEDIA RELEASE

May 30, 2026

Exceptional health care achievements honoured at 2026 BC Rural Health Awards

BC Rural Health Awards: 2026 Winners

PRINCE GEORGE/UNCEDED LAND OF THE LHEIDLI T'ENNEH — Outstanding rural physicians, an innovative First Nations community and an exceptional medical resident are being honoured through the 2026 BC Rural Health Awards. The Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc) presents the awards each spring to recognize people and communities making significant contributions to rural health care in British Columbia. This year's recipients are be honoured on Saturday, May 30, during the BC Rural Health Conference in Prince George. The award presentations take place at The Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre.

Dr. Stu Johnston, a longstanding member of the awards committee, said the awards are an important opportunity to recognize peers for their contributions to rural health care.

"It is with great pleasure that we take this opportunity to recognize extraordinary physicians and communities who have made a significant contribution to strengthening health care for the citizens of rural British Columbia. Their work, often unnoticed and under-appreciated, has significantly improved the lives of individuals, families and communities in the rural and remote areas of this province."

The Award of Excellence in Rural Medicine, Lifetime Achievement, honours physicians for their exceptional contributions to the health of people in rural, remote and Indigenous communities across BC. The 2026 recipients are:

- Dr. Ronald Reznick - Salt Spring Island
- Dr. David Merry - Christina Lake
- Dr. Marius Mostert - Fort Nelson
- Dr. Charlie Eckfeldt - Hazelton

The Rural BC Community Award acknowledges communities for developing innovative and collaborative solutions to local health care challenges. The 2026 recipient is:

- Tla'amin Nation

The Resident Leadership Award recognizes a medical resident in good academic standing who has demonstrated a sustained interest in rural and remote medicine in BC. The 2026 recipient is:

- Dr. Justina Marianayagam

More information about the BC Rural Health Conference is available here.

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About the Rural Coordination Centre of BC

Led by rural doctors, the Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc) is a network that works to improve the health of people and their communities in rural BC. Funded primarily by the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, our network partners include healthcare providers and administrators, community members, policymakers, educators, researchers, and non-profit and business leaders. We serve all rural, remote and Indigenous communities in BC covered by the Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement.