Summary of Alberta & Northwest Territories Division Awards

BOARDS CHAIR’S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

a. Awarded to a member of the Society, staff member, service club, group, business association, etc., who made an outstanding contribution.
b. The recipient will be chosen by the Division Board Chair.

DIVISION AWARD OF MERIT - MEMBER

The Division Award of Merit, Member, recognizes an outstanding contribution by a member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada in furthering the work of the MS Society on a provincial/regional basis. The contribution may have been made in any of the following areas: client services, public education, government relations, fundraising, research or administration.

DIVISION AWARD OF MERIT – NON-MEMBER

The Division Award of Merit, Non-member, recognizes an outstanding contribution by a member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada in furthering the work of the MS Society on a provincial/regional basis. The contribution may have been made in any of the following areas: client services, public education, government relations, fundraising, research or administration.

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD OF THE YEAR

a. Awarded to a service club, group or business which has aided the Society substantially through financial or special service projects.
b. Candidates may be recommended by each Chapter.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

a. Awarded to an individual or organization for:
   - effective presentation of multiple sclerosis matters and concerns via radio, television, newspaper, magazine, etc., and/or
   - regular and continued interest in promoting the Society's goals and objectives and/or
   - special assistance in promotion of special events of the Society (Carnation Campaign, READ-a-thon, Bike Tour, Walk, etc.).
b. One candidate may be recommended annually by each Chapter.
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD – JOANNE ROBINSON AWARD

a. Awarded to an individual who:
   - has been active in direct services to those who have multiple sclerosis, their families, the community, or in advocacy on behalf of persons with MS.
   - has promoted the goals of the Society throughout the larger community.
b. One candidate may be recommended annually by each Chapter.
c. Candidates must be current members of the Society.

DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD – PAT STEWART AWARD

a. Awarded to an individual who:
   - has been active in fund raising, public education or public relations, or has served on boards/committees of the MS Society.
   - has promoted the goals of the Society throughout the larger community.
b. One candidate may be recommended annually by each Chapter.
c. Candidates must be current members of the Society.

OPAL AWARD

The Opal Award for Caregivers was founded to recognize the contributions of those who are or have been caregivers to people with MS. The award was initiated to honour the dedication and devotion displayed by Jack and Minda Opal in supporting and caring for Evelyn Opal, a founding member of the MS Society. Since it was created in 1993, the award has captured the hearts of persons with MS, family members, volunteers and staff.

The Alberta recipient of the OPAL Award will be Alberta’s candidate to receive the National Opal Award.

The National Opal Award recipient will become the MS Society’s nominee for the MS International Federation’s Evelyn Nicholson Award for International Caregiver.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD

The President’s Award is given to an individual with MS who has made valuable contributions to the MS Society of Canada. The successful candidate will have enhanced the influence and position of persons with MS within the Society through their own activities, either by encouraging others to take a role in the Society and/or by setting an example. The candidate will have also created greater public awareness of MS to the community-at-large.

a. Individual has MS
b. Enhanced the influence of persons with MS within the Society through their own activities.
c. Impact felt both within the Society and in the community-at-large

The Alberta recipient of the President’s Award will be Alberta’s candidate to receive the National President’s Award.
MAUREEN ALLEN SOCIAL ACTION AWARD

a. Awarded to an individual or organization who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and/or achievement in the area of Social Action.
b. Candidates may be recommended by each Chapter.

PROFESSIONAL CARE AWARD

a. Awarded to a health care professional who has exhibited special dedication and effectiveness in providing care or service to those living with multiple sclerosis, their families, or the community.
b. One candidate may be recommended annually by each Chapter.

PAUL SCOTT AWARD

a. Awarded to any employee of the Division of any Chapter in Alberta who has aided the Society substantially through dedicated and exceptional employment.
b. The recipient will be chosen by the Division Board Chair

NANCY R. PERKINS AWARD (DIVISION)

The Nancy R. Perkins Award honours the memory of Nancy R. Perkins, a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer who served on the national board of directors as honourary secretary as well as chair of the national public education committee from 1978 to 1982.

It recognizes lifetime achievement for an individual who has left active volunteer service to the MS Society.

a. Long standing volunteer who has left active volunteer service to the MS Society
b. Significant contribution on a nationwide basis to the development or growth in one or more of the following areas:
   • client services;
   • public education;
   • social action;
   • fundraising;
   • research;
   • volunteer management;
   • or governance