



May 12, 2018

BC Rural Health Awards recognizes Terrace physician Dr. Geoff Appleton with Lifetime Achievement Award

VANCOUVER – The Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc) is pleased to announce that Dr. **Geoffrey Appleton** of Terrace, BC is the recipient of its 2018 Award of Excellence in Rural Medicine: Lifetime Achievement. He was honoured at a ceremony at the RCCbc's annual BC Rural Health Conference in Nanaimo on May 12.

Dr. Appleton has cared for generations of patients across Pacific Northwestern BC for 43 years. He played an integral leading role in building primary care infrastructure in Terrace, stepping up in 1976 as a respected Medical Director of the local laboratory and then serving as Northwest Medical Director for Northern Health in 2009. During his career, Dr. Appleton served as: Chief of Staff for Mills Memorial Hospital; first President and Founding Member of the Terrace and District Medical Association, (est. 1979); and, President of the BC Medical Association (now Doctors of BC) from 2007-2008. In 2016, Dr. Appleton took the helm of the Pacific Northwest Division of Family Practice as its Physician Lead.

In addition to his medical leadership, Dr. Appleton has also demonstrated legendary service to his community. He served with the Terrace Child Development Centre for 11 years as Board Director and 15 years as its Medical Director. In 2016, Dr. Appleton became the Director for the Dr. R.E.M. Lee Foundation, a key local charity that supports Mills Memorial Hospital and Terrace View Lodge.

2018 marks the fifth year that RCCbc has recognized BC physicians and communities for their contribution and dedication to rural medical practice with the BC Rural Health Awards (formerly the Awards of Excellence in Rural Medicine). Each year, RCCbc recognizes rural physicians within a themed category (e.g., Rural Opinion Leaders in 2015, Outstanding Mentors in 2014) as well as acknowledging long-term practitioners who have shaped and served their communities for more than 15 years. In 2016, RCCbc began to honour the valuable work of interprofessional health care teams in sustaining and/or retaining rural community health services in British Columbia.

A call for nominations was issued in December 2017 through *BC Rural Update*, the eNewsletter of the RCCbc. Recipients were selected by a committee consisting of representatives from RCCbc and the University of British Columbia. All award recipients receive a physical plaque, along with a \$2,500 grant to be used for hosting a community celebration.

The BC Rural Health Awards are made possible through the generous funding provided by the [Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues](#) (JSC). The JSC is a joint collaboration between the BC government and the Doctors of BC that provides policy oversight as well as funding for rural physician programs to increase recruitment and retention of doctors in British Columbia.