

## **OPHA's 2017 Award of Excellence, Sue Shikaze**

I am pleased to announce that Sue Shikaze is the second recipient of OPHA's 2017 Award of Excellence. This award is given in recognition of Sue's outstanding leadership, her contributions to public health and commitment to innovation, the built environment and capacity building.

Sue is a Health Promoter at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and a member and past co-chair of OPHA's Built Environment Workgroup.

In that former role, Sue played an instrumental role in leading the team through unchartered territory through various projects related to active transportation and the built environment. Sue kept a pulse on what was happening to ensure targets were met, high quality outcomes achieved and the right people brought together to start new conversations that could effect change. She reached out to other professional associations in planning, municipal affairs and to find commonalities and pursue opportunities that could promote a health in all policies approach. More recently, Sue has been exploring how Public Health can better engage with engineers on transportation planning.

Sue coordinated several of OPHA's advocacy, policy and funding submissions dealing with topics such as Ontario's cycling Strategy, National Cycling and Walking Infrastructure to Ontario's Coordinated Land Use Planning Review.

While Sue has been a terrific champion for OPHA led initiatives, she has also contributed significantly to other provincial and local advocacy groups, including Past Chair of Ontario's Share the Road Cycling Coalition, Chair of her local Communities in Action Committee and the Haliburton Highlands Cycling Coalition. Her work with the County of Haliburton on a Share the Road project was recognized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Sue has shared her knowledge on rural active transportation issues through co-authoring a text book article on active transportation in rural communities.

Sue colleagues describe her as a forward thinker, an exceptional collaborator, creative problem-solver who is always ready to take on new challenges and generously devote her time and expertise to advancing built environment issues.

Please join me in recognizing and congratulating Sue for her outstanding contributions.

## **OPHA's 2017 Award of Excellence, Jennifer Walker**

It is my pleasure to recognize Jennifer Walker as the 2017 recipient of the OPHA Award of Excellence. This award is given in recognition of Jennifer's outstanding leadership, contributions to Indigenous health and her commitment to partnership, research and capacity building.

Jennifer is a PhD epidemiologist who wears many hats. She's the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health at Laurentian University, Core Scientist and Indigenous Health Research Lead, at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, an Adjunct Assistant Professor and Assistant Professor at the Schools of Public health at the universities of Waterloo and Toronto respectively.

Jennifer's commitment to Indigenous health has positioned her as a leader in the defining public health challenge of our generation. She's been committed to measuring and addressing gaps in health status and health experiences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities long before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action made it a national priority.

Over the past year, Jennifer has been working on an emerging Northern Ontario Indigenous health partnership called Mamow Ahyamowen, meaning Everyone's Voices. It is a partnership of nine Northern Ontario First Nations health organizations representing 73 First Nations communities. The partnership is using epidemiological methods to help communities access the health status data they need to inform local planning to improve health.

Jennifer has demonstrated respect, partnership, and tenacity in this and other projects recognizing the importance of community engagement, ownership and building trust.

Jennifer is also a respected voice on a range of Indigenous health topics. She is regularly consulted by senior policy makers for her insights and advice. She is also a sought-after speaker, a mentor to Masters and Doctoral students and the driving force behind the new ICES mentorship program for Indigenous health researchers. Jennifer's Haudenosaunee ancestry from Six Nations positions her as a role model for emerging Indigenous health researchers as well as an outstanding epidemiology mentor.

Her colleague has noted that Jennifer's partnership approach is enabling numerous Indigenous communities to make transformative public health decisions to improve the wellbeing of their residents.

Jennifer, it is my pleasure to confer you with OPHA's Award of Excellence.