



Congratulations to 2016 Recipients of Dan Benedict Award for Social Justice

This distinguished award celebrates the contributions of an individual or organization that advances social justice for seniors in their community. It was developed in the memory and social justice legacy of former OSSCO board member, Dan Benedict. OSSCO annually reaches out to the community to find individuals and organizations that are working for social justice in seniors issues and recognizes them and their efforts with this award.

The 2016 Dan Benedict award is being presented to 2 recipients:

Natalie Mehra: leadership and Ontario Health Coalition: community mobilization and partnerships/collaboration

Natalie Mehra

Natalie Mehra is the Executive Director of the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) - an organization encompassing more than 400 organizations and more than 70 local chapters across Ontario.

She has dedicated the last sixteen years to building the health coalition into the largest and broadest public interest group on health care in this province. The coalition now represents more than half-a-million Ontario residents.



Prior to joining OHC, Natalie served as the executive director of the Epilepsy Association for Southeastern Ontario, in Kingston Ontario where she graduated from Queen's University. She has been a board member for a number of human rights, arts, health, advocacy, disability, and women's organizations. She has extensive experience as a community organizer dedicated to building and coordinating democratic citizens' engagement in issues related to poverty and equality, human rights, social justice and health.

Natalie has authored numerous published reports, essays and articles.

She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Health Coalition, and serves as a Steering Committee member of the Ontario Common Front for whom she has written two major reports on growing inequality.

She has spearheaded dozens of campaigns to safeguard and improve Canada's public health care system, to protect the values of equity and compassion that underlie Public Medicare in Canada, and to promote the public interest.



Ontario Society of Senior Citizens Organizations
La Société des Organisations des Citoyens Aînés de l'Ontario

OHC's primary goal is to protect and improve our public health care system. They work to honour and strengthen the principles of the Canada Health Act. OHC is led by a shared commitment to core values of equality, democracy, social inclusion and social justice; and by the five principles of the Act: universality; comprehensiveness; portability; accessibility and public administration.

OHC is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest activist coalition and network.

To this end, OHC empowers the members of their constituent organizations to become actively engaged in the making of public policy on matters related to public health care system and healthy communities.

OHC seeks to provide to member organizations and the broader public ongoing information about our health care system and its programs and services, and to protect the public health system from threats such as cuts, delisting and privatization.

Through public education and support for public debate, OHC contributes to the maintenance and extension of a system of checks and balances that is essential to good decision-making. They are an extremely collaborative organization, actively working with others to share resources and information.

Visit our Website www.ocSCO.ca for information on our educational programs or call 416-785-8570 for more information. Computer program partner sites include Loyola Arrupe, Jamaican Canadian Centre and Polycultural Immigrant Centre as well as our OSSCO offices, offered free of charge to adults 55+.



Natalie Mehra with Evelyn Theriault, OSSCO Chair Elect in the left picture and with Elizabeth, OSSCO Executive Director in the right picture