

# nursing newsletter



## 2026 NURSING WEEK: A CELEBRATION OF OUR NURSES' IMPACT ON THE PROFESSION AND ON PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

As always, National Nursing Week provided a meaningful opportunity to pause, reflect and celebrate how MUHC nurses embody the defining qualities of the profession: clinical excellence, collaboration, adaptability, and a deep commitment to patients and families. It also underscored the essential role nurses assume every day in not only delivering high-quality, compassionate care, but also in advancing practice, supporting innovation through research, training the newest cohorts and mentoring future professionals – in a nutshell, bringing to life the “power of nurses to transform health”.

This year's Nursing Week celebrations were held under the theme “Vos compétences à l'œuvre” (your skills in action), as proposed by the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec. Capturing the full scope of nursing expertise, judgment and impact, the theme invited us to recognize the many skills at work in diverse and complex care settings. A huge thank you goes out to Jasmine Lee Hill and Chelsea Ilagan, our Nursing Week co-hosts, as well as to all those who volunteered throughout the week to ensure that all the activities ran smoothly. Of course, we express our sincere gratitude to our hospital foundations; their ongoing support helps make these moments of recognition possible and enhance our nurses' workplace, professional development and well-being.

In closing, it was wonderful to see the high degree of participation in the activities. What a testament to the strong sense of pride and belonging that unites our nursing community and their contributions to the interdisciplinary teams that make up the MUHC's collective impact on health care. Your unwavering dedication, engagement and professionalism truly make a difference—at every hour of the day.

Colleen Timm, Associate President and Executive Director, MUHC  
Alain Biron, Director of Nursing, MUHC

## LOOKING BACK ON NURSING WEEK

### A week filled with energy, heart, and pride

As we wrap up another incredible MUHC Nursing Week, we want to say a huge thank you for making it so memorable. From one site to another, the energy, positivity, and team spirit were everywhere, and we felt them throughout the entire week.

Whether you took part in one of the **469** GooseChase challenges, joined the **88** participants in the Kahoot sessions, visited one of the **269** kiosks, or attended the Awards of Excellence Ceremony, it was your presence and energy that truly brought this week to life.

Once again, you showed the incredible talent, dedication, and compassion that make nursing at the MUHC so special. We are so proud to celebrate you, not only this week, but every day of the year.

Thank you for everything you do.

Jasmine and Chelsea,  
2026 Nursing Week Organizers





# WINNERS OF THE 2026 NURSING AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

A huge congratulations to all the recipients and nominees of the 2026 Nursing Excellence Awards!

This ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate individuals who, through their humanity and their commitment to making a difference, embody the very best of nursing at the MUHC. Every action taken, every challenge overcome, and every life touched over the years has made you the role models of excellence we are celebrating today.

Thank you for inspiring us to always go further.

## VALERIE SHANNON AWARD

### *Outstanding Career*



**Nancy Turner**  
Associate Director of Nursing  
MGH & Nursing Directorate,  
Professional Practices

Nancy Turner embodies excellence in nursing at the MUHC. With more than 35 years of dedicated service, she is described as forward-thinking, innovative, pragmatic, and deeply committed to education and shared governance.

A deeply human and influential leader, Nancy does not lead by dictating, she guides and supports. She fosters confidence, autonomy, and fosters a strong sense of purpose within teams, even during times of uncertainty. Her impact is both tangible and lasting: harmonized and safer practices, as well as transition and integration programs that support the next generation of nurses.

Demanding without being rigid, visionary without being abstract, Nancy Turner has left an enduring mark on nursing practice at the MUHC and far beyond.

## LORINE BESEL AWARD

### *Leadership*



**Astride Bazile**  
Project Coordinator  
RVH, Cancer Care Mission

As coordinator of the Cancer Care Transition of Care Program, Astride Bazile played a key role in establishing a safe and seamless transition for patients returning to community follow-up after active treatment.

Recognized for her ability to bring teams together and translate vision into meaningful improvements, she also implemented a standardized, patient-centered informed consent process across oncology services, helping clarify the role of nurses in shared decision-making.

Curious, driven, and highly collaborative, she draws on evidence-based practice and team engagement to promote high-quality, patient-centered care.

## NEW GENERATION AWARD

### *Less than 5 years in the profession*



**Jayme Rothstein**  
Assistant Nurse Manager  
(interim)  
RVH, Cancer Care Mission

Jayme Rothstein is an exceptional emerging nursing leader whose commitment to cancer care began early on during her time on Unit D10, even before completing her degree.

In just a few years, Jayme has embraced complex challenges, including an interim ANM role, where she supported her colleagues while balancing organizational priorities, resources, and clinical excellence. She is described as a promising leader and a valuable asset to the organization, regardless of the role she takes on.

## FRANCO CARNEVALE AWARD

### Education-Professional Development & Research



**Raphaëlle Bastarache**  
Advanced Practice Nurse  
MGH, Surgery Mission

Raphaëlle Bastarache's work has had a profound impact on nursing education, professional development, and research at the MUHC. For more than seven years, first in the Glen ICU and now within the Surgery Mission, she has helped advance nursing practice through knowledge sharing, the development of clinical tools, and support for teams during practice changes.

Deeply involved in numerous clinical and educational initiatives, Raphaëlle is recognized for her collaborative leadership, rigor, and evidence-based approach.

## ANNE-MARIE LEJEUNE AWARD

### Collaboration & Support to Nursing



**Gianna Lepiane**  
Manager  
MGH, RVH

Gianna Lepiane is a cornerstone in nursing support at the MUHC, where she has worked for more than 36 years to ensure safe and equitable staffing. As manager of the Replacement Staffing Service, Recall List, and Resource Teams at the RVH, MGH, and MNH, she is an essential resource for managers and nursing teams alike.

Gianna is widely recognized as the go-to person during staffing emergencies, and her quick, decisive actions have repeatedly helped ensure patient safety. Known for consistently going above and beyond to support employees and colleagues in difficult situations, she stands out for her expertise, leadership, and compassionate, collaborative approach.

## PATRICIA O'CONNOR AWARD

### Project/Program



**Adult Nurse Educators**  
MGH, Glen, Lachine and the Neuro

This team is recognized for its leadership in redesigning the MUHC's Central Nursing Orientation. In response to learner feedback and evolving clinical needs, its members developed the "Bridge to Practice" program, a hands-on, and engaging orientation designed to build confidence and better prepare new staff for practice. Since April 2025, this initiative has transformed the learning experience of nearly 250 new nurses, CEPIs, CEPIAs, and LPNs.

By grounding education in practical skills, current best practices, and learner engagement, they have created an essential resource for the institution and a model of excellence in nursing education.

## PEGGY SANGSTER AWARD

### Preceptorship



**Nancy Obas**  
Nurse Clinician  
RVH, Ambulatory Clinics

Nancy Obas is an exceptional preceptor at the Chronic Viral Illness Service clinic, recognized for her passion for teaching and her commitment to excellence. Described as "brilliant, highly devoted, and endlessly enthusiastic," she consistently goes above and beyond expectations, regardless of the situation.

She supports newcomers with professionalism and empathy, and creates a reassuring environment from the very first encounter. Her natural warmth and sense of humor help build learners' confidence, while her structured, evidence-based guidance fosters their confidence and autonomy.

## LARAINÉ IMPERIAL AWARD

### Administrative Staff



**Samantha Senecal**  
Unit Coordinator  
RVH, C8 Surgery

With 20 years of dedicated service and as C8 coordinator since January 2024, Samantha Senecal has an exceptional ability to anticipate the unit's needs and improve its daily functioning and performance.

By developing essential clinical and organizational resources, she combines administrative efficiency with compassionate care. Her initiatives have helped streamline complex workflows, supported staff during high-pressure periods, and ensured safe, coordinated transitions for patients and their families.

Through her foresight, dedication, and quiet but steady leadership, Samantha has quickly become an invaluable cornerstone of the unit.

## LARAINÉ IMPERIAL AWARD

### PAB



**Estrella Barbin**  
Patient Care Attendant  
RVH, C8 Surgery

For nearly 25 years, Estrella Barbin's presence has shaped the heart and soul of the C8 Surgical Oncology unit at the RVH. Recognized for her unwavering dedication, she brings warmth, laughter, and comfort, even in the most challenging moments.

Affectionately nicknamed "Tita" by her colleagues, she supports patients with respect and compassion while also caring for her team with great generosity. Strong, kind, and committed to high standards, she embodies every day the values of dignity and mutual trust.

## ISOBEL MACLEOD AWARD

### LPN



**Chandni Patel**  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
MGH, Ortho Trauma  
Surgery 12th

Chandni Patel is one of the "quiet strengths" of Unit 12 at the MGH. Since joining in 2022, she has been recognized for consistently going above and beyond for both patients and her colleagues.

Calm, steady, and deeply committed, she brings warmth, reliability, and teamwork to every shift. She plays a key role in supporting patients, collaborating with interdisciplinary teams, and reassuring junior nurses working in dyads. Her colleagues greatly value her contribution to a climate of trust, collaboration, and psychological safety, even in the most challenging moments.

## EVELYN MALOWANY AWARD

### Clinical Practice (team)



**Anéande Mpambia**  
Nurse Clinician  
MGH, Ambulatory Clinics

Anéande Mpambia is an exceptional Nurse Clinician with the Acute Pain Service at the Montreal General Hospital. With nearly 10 years of nursing experience, she is recognized for her compassion, professionalism, and outstanding clinical judgment.

Her calm and reassuring presence brings comfort not only to patients and their families, but also to the teams she works with. Her colleagues describe her as a stabilizing and inspiring force, a true team player who is always willing to go above and beyond.

# EVELYN MALOWANY AWARD

## Clinical Practice (team)



**The Patient Support Line Team**  
Transversal

The Patient Support Line team plays a key role in supporting adult patients transitioning from hospital to home. Present during often critical moments, the team provides reassuring support while helping to reduce unnecessary emergency visits.

The team is made up of nurses who stand out for their expertise, commitment, and adaptability, despite an environment marked by rapid change and constant evolution.

Through their compassionate listening, clinical judgment, and seamless collaboration, they have become a trusted resource for patients, families, and community partners, as well as an invaluable resource for the MUHC.



# Reliving some highlights

Challenges tackled, laughs shared, and team spirit shining through – a look back at some highlights from the Ultimate Challenge!



**MGH - 15th & 17th Medicine**  
Surprise act of kindness



**Lachine 4th-5th Medicine**  
Full PPE



**MCH-Day Center**  
Wild pets



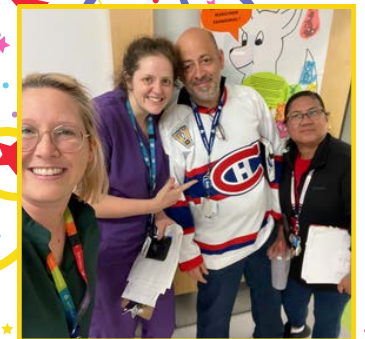
**MCH-PACU**  
The Unit's MacGyver



**RVH-B3 Cath Lab**  
Habs Game Night!



**RVH Emergency**  
Medication cart



**Transv-NRM**  
Habs Game Night!



**HME-PICU**  
Full PPE



**Tiny Toes Territory-DO6**  
Walking Meeting



**Trans-PCI Infection prevention**  
and control  
CSISS huddle



**MCH-Ambulatory Clinics**  
Unique or funny sticker



**RVH - Centre de jour**  
Team bonding event



**MGH - 4th Psychiatry**  
All heart



**MGH - Emergency**  
Group Wink



Don't miss the best moments of the Ultimate Challenge!

Discover even more highlights on the MUHC's social media channels. We invite you to comment and share!



# Ultimate Challenge: and the big winners are...

469 challenges, 50 teams, 9,058 entries. Well done to all participants and congratulations to the winners!

## Non 24/7 Teams

1. MCH Ped NPDE
2. RVH IPO
3. MGH Dialysis
4. RVH Dialysis
5. Transversal Adult Educators

## 24/7 Teams

1. RVH D07 Cardiac Surgery
2. RVH C08 Surgical Oncology
3. RVH C07 Coronary Care

## By site

- TRANSV: Adult APN
- Lachine: OR and PACU
- Neuro: ICU
- RVH: D10 Hem- Onc
- MGH: 18 General Surgery
- MCH: B9

And because you all went above and beyond, we've got additional prizes to hand out to our top teams

## Congratulations to the **Kahoot!** challenge winners and to all 88 participants!

## Skills kiosks: draw results

### Lundi

1. Gabriel Domocos
2. Carissa Wong
3. Jaidyn Huza

### Jeudi

1. Marie-Eve Leblanc
2. Jayme Rothstein
3. Christine Lefebvre

### Glen

1. Jessica Senecal
2. Drena Walker
3. Jennifer Polson

### Neuro

1. Aneet Jhajj
2. Pantea Aghamirkarimi
3. Ellen Stevenson

### HGM

1. Tanya Desmond
2. Thien-An Lam
3. Margarita Sánchez

### Lachine

1. Essengue Jacqueline
2. Myriam Menard
3. Tahiri Imad



## Thank you to our collaborators

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this week so memorable.

- Aneet Jhajj
- Alain Biron
- Alessia Paparella
- Alejandro Ramirez
- Alina Dzhaafar
- Andrea Witkowski
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- Brendan Timmins
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- Geraldine Schaack
- Ian Truong
- Janique Collin
- Jesse Burns
- Jia Hu
- Jessica Dumoulin
- Joanne Power
- Johanne Saddik
- Josee Lizotte
- Julie Dicaire
- Antonio Rizzuto

- Katherine Mohsen
- Kelly Ann Grace
- Leah Tracey
- Lorna Coppin
- Maude Paradis
- Marie-Andrée Jacques
- Marie Létourneau
- Maxime Boutin-Caron
- Megan Mcquinter
- Melanie Nixon
- Michelle Samaha
- Millie Firmin
- Millie Lum
- Myriam Menard
- Naomi Avril
- Gilbert Bellavance
- Francois Robin
- Christian Lavigne

- Nicole Drummond
- Paule Kelly-Rhéaume
- Rosalynn Bautista
- Sabrina Burr
- Samantha Santilli
- Sandrine Binette-Rodrigue
- Stephanie Lesage
- Suzanne Alphonse Bissada
- Sydney Wasserman
- Tamila Barab
- Tina Mezzacappa
- Vicki Tan
- Yacine Ait-Akil
- Yasmine Kheloufi
- Atif Abbas
- Catherine Bouchard
- Sandra McPherson
- Anthony John Revoy



## Thank you to our donors

Thank you to our generous donors for supporting this very special week celebrating nursing.



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Hôpital général  
de Montréal

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Please submit your articles for the next newsletter **before May 28.**

Please note that the June edition will exceptionally be published at the end of the month.

Consult [the 2026 Nursing Newsletter Calendar](#)