



Funeral Service Association of Canada / Association des services funéraires du Canada

Award of Merit

"The 'Award of Merit' recognizes individuals whose contribution, dedication and accomplishments, have created a lasting legacy within the death care profession throughout Canada."

APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 11, 2026

Established in 1999 through a motion of the Board of Directors, this award honours those who have made outstanding contributions to the funeral profession in Canada. Eligible nominees are individuals who have demonstrated a sustained record of nationally focused contributions to death care across the country. The award may be presented to more than one recipient and is not required to be awarded annually

Eligibility for this award extends to funeral directors, embalmers, cemeterians, suppliers, educators, regulators, and administrators working within the death care profession.

Past Recipients:

1999	C. William Bowes	2000	Gilles Poirier
2001	Susan MacKinnon	2002	Lorne Kelly
2003	Marlin Foist	2004	Robert Greschuk
2005	Geoff Carnell	2006	Brian McGarry
2007	Charles Curry	2008	Robert Scott
2009	Mike Meyer	2010	Jerry Smolyk
2011	A. John Doyle	2012	Allan Bailey
2013	Allan Cole	2014	No Recipient
2015	Sheila Nunn and Daniel Scanlan (co-recipients awarded posthumously)	2016	Jean Garneau
2017	Faye Doucette	2018	Alain Dumont
2019	No Recipient	2020	John Francis Green
2021	John (Jack) Gordon	2022	Sandy Mahon
2023	No Recipient	2024	No Recipient
2025	Jane Titcombe and Randy Rogalsky		

Qualification Criteria

The Award of Merit is designed to honour individuals who have made significant contributions to the death care profession ***throughout Canada*** and is open to funeral directors, embalmers, cemeterians, suppliers, educators, regulators and administrators, within the deathcare profession.

The following criteria outline the qualifications for nominees:

1. Distinguished Career:

- A minimum of 10 years of experience in the death care profession.
- Demonstrated excellence in various aspects of death care service, including operations, management, community service, and leadership.

2. Significant Contributions:

- Evidence of outstanding contributions to the death care profession, such as innovative practices, educational initiatives, or advancements in service delivery.
- Involvement in professional associations or organizations that promote the growth and integrity of the death care sector.

3. Leadership and Mentorship:

- Proven track record of leadership within the profession.
- Commitment to mentoring and supporting the development of future death care professionals.

4. Community Engagement:

- Active participation in service or outreach programs that enhance the understanding of funeral service and its importance throughout Canada.
- Initiatives that foster a positive relationship between death care providers across Canada and the communities they serve.

5. Advocacy and Professionalism:

- Advocacy for the deathcare profession at local, provincial, and/or national levels.
- Upholding high standards of ethics, professionalism, and integrity throughout their career.

6. Recognition by Peers:

- Nomination supported by testimonials or endorsements from peers, colleagues, or industry leaders that highlight the nominee's impact and contributions.

7. Lifelong Learning:

- Commitment to continuing education and professional development, demonstrating a dedication to staying current with industry practices and advancements.

8. Impact on the Profession:

- Clear evidence of how the nominee's work has positively influenced the death care profession in Canada; whether through policy changes, educational programs, or service innovations.

Nomination Guidelines

- Nominee must be nominated by their peers, with at least one being a FSAC member;
- Nominee must be a FSAC member in good standing;
- Nominee must not be a current Director or Officer on the FSAC Board of Directors;

Submissions

- Nominations are to be submitted using the prescribed nomination form to the FSAC office by email at info@fsac.ca by March 11, 2026;
- Eligible nominations must include the following (See attached Form):
 - Full name, email and telephone contact of nominee
 - Full mailing address of nominee, including organization name (if applicable)
 - Full name of nomination mover
 - Full mailing address of nomination mover, including organization name (if applicable) and postal code
 - Email address and telephone contact of nomination mover
 - Full name of nomination seconder
 - Email address and telephone contact of nomination seconder
 - **A detailed outline as to why the nominee is an appropriate candidate.**

Important: Only the information submitted in response to the criterion will be considered during the evaluation process.

Notes:

- An individual submitting a nomination (the mover) may not also act as a seconder for another nominee.
- Failure to comply with the nomination guidelines will result in rejection of the nomination.
- If no nominations are submitted, the Membership Committee will seek nominations from the Board of Directors, to be provided no later than March 24, 2026. If the Board does not provide nominations, the Membership Committee reserves the right to nominate an FSAC member as the recipient of the Award of Merit.
- Beginning in 2020, all nominations will be retained for a period of two (2) years.

The FSAC office will confirm receipt of nominations by return email to the nomination mover. Nominations will be reviewed for selection of the award recipient by the Membership Committee, with final approval by the Board of Directors. Results will be announced to the nomination movers by April 23, 2026.

Any questions or concerns regarding the nomination and selection process should be addressed with the FSAC office at info@fsac.ca or by phone at 613-505-0277.