

## Manitoba Recipient 2026

### Canadian Association of Social Workers Distinguished Service Award

*Jennifer Whalen, BSW, RSW*



Jennifer Whalen's career is a profound example of her commitment to life promotion, mental health advocacy and Social Work practice in the North. Jennifer is currently the Mental Health Promotion Coordinator within the Northern Health Region and has supported the Region since 1999 in various roles within the scope of mental health.

Jennifer's career demonstrates her dedication to fostering environments where individuals, families and communities can thrive. Jennifer's dedication to her work has allowed her to create partnerships within the community leading to successful events such as the Robb Nash Project and the implementation of Roots of Hope (suicide prevention). Jennifer has invested countless hours providing responsive, inclusive and accessible training to employees with the NRHA, Health Child Manitoba's Towards Flourishing program, Shared Health/AFM and Suicide Prevention Provincial Network. Jennifer also serves as the Ethics Committee facilitator for the NRHA and provides learning opportunities for future Social Workers as a Field Supervisor for the University of Manitoba's Bachelor of Social Work Program and Wilfred Laurier's Master of Social Work program.

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*"Jennifer is a true champion for youth, a steadfast supporter of mental wellness, and an exemplary representative of the social work profession."*

*~ Nicole Hrehirchuk, CEO, The Robb Nash Project*

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Beyond Jennifer's professional accomplishments, her integrity and consistent dedication to the field is inspiring. Colleagues often seek Jennifer out for her knowledge, compassion and ability to translate complex challenges into actionable solutions. Whether through direct clinical support, community programming or collaborative initiatives across agencies and sectors, Jennifer's practice has consistently reflected the highest standards of our profession.

Congratulations Jennifer! Your contributions to the field of social work will leave a lasting impact for years to come.