

Women of Impact in STEM – Nominating our leaders in Medicine

There are currently no Indigenous Women in the Canadian Women of Impact STEM Gallery. <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/commemoration/woi-fic/stem-stim-en.html> It is time to change that.

Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) is accepting nominations for Women of Impact

We encourage you to nominate any Indigenous physician leader(s) whom you feel should be included in the Women of Impact STEM Gallery. While the process is not a public vote, we have been informed that multiple nominations factor into the decision making of WAGE.

We gathered a small sub-committee to discuss potential nominees and we have decided to endorse the following three physicians. We have created a *fast facts* list as well as a sample nomination in paragraph form. If you choose to nominate one or more of the following physicians, you may find these tools helpful. Please review the nomination page before submitting your nominations <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/commemoration/woi-fic/nomination-en.html>

1. Dr. Marcia Anderson

Fast Facts

- A Cree-Anishinaabe woman with family roots in Norway House Cree Nation and Peguis First Nation in Manitoba
- Youngest Indigenous graduate of the University of Manitoba Medical School
- Residency in Internal Medicine
- Masters of Public Health, John Hopkins University
- Youngest President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada
- Past Chair of the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress
- Vice-Dean of Indigenous Health at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences
- Executive Director of Indigenous academic affairs at Ongomiizwin Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, University of Manitoba
- Advocate for the advancement of Indigenous medical education
- Advocate for equitable access to healthcare
- Advocate for increased Indigenous representation in the medical system
- National Aboriginal Achievement Award
- Named one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network in 2018

Dr. Marcia Anderson is an influential leader in Indigenous health. A Cree-Anishinaabe woman with family roots in Norway House Cree Nation and Peguis First Nation in Manitoba, she has made a substantial impact at both the community and national levels. She was the youngest Indigenous graduate of the University of Manitoba Medical School, and completed her residency training in Internal Medicine before obtaining a Masters of Public Health at John Hopkins University.

Tireless advocate and leader, she became the youngest President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, a Chair of the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress, and Executive Director of Indigenous academic affairs at Ongomiizwin Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, University of Manitoba. Dr. Anderson is the Vice-Dean of Indigenous Health at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

Throughout her career, Dr. Anderson has advocated for the advancement of Indigenous medical education, equitable access to healthcare, and increased Indigenous representation in the medical system. In recognition of her remarkable achievements, she was given a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, and named one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network in 2018.

Dr. Anderson is a role model, mentor, and expert in her field, and has made significant contributions to healthcare in Canada. Without a doubt, she is a Woman of Impact, and it is my honour to nominate her for her salient achievements.

2. Dr. Nadine Caron

Fast Facts

- Anishinaabe
- First female Indigenous graduate of UBC's Faculty of Medicine (as the top student in her class)
- Canada's first Indigenous female surgeon.
- Masters in Public Health from Harvard University
- Associate Professorship in UBC's Northern Medical Program
- Co-Directorship in the UBC Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health
- Associate Professorship at Johns Hopkins Centre for American Indian Health
- Honourary Doctor of Laws from the University of Fraser Valley
- Founding First Nations Health Authority Chair in Cancer and Wellness at UBC
- Dedicated to surgical and teaching practice in Northern British Columbia

Sample Description

Dr. Nadine Caron is the very definition of a trailblazer. As a young Anishinaabe woman, she was a star on the basketball court before directing her attention to a career in medicine. She was the first female Indigenous graduate of UBC's Faculty of Medicine (as the top student in her class), before becoming Canada's first Indigenous female surgeon.

Her remarkable journey in leadership has led her to a Masters in Public Health from Harvard University, Associate Professorship in UBC's Northern Medical Program, co-Directorship in the UBC Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health, Associate Professorship at Johns Hopkins Centre for American Indian Health and an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Fraser Valley. In her most recent groundbreaking role, Dr Caron has become the founding First Nations Health Authority Chair in Cancer and Wellness at UBC.

Beyond her internationally renowned academic achievements, Dr. Caron has chosen to locate her surgical and teaching practice in Northern British Columbia. She still finds her passion in community-

level advocacy, addressing the disparities in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.

She is an inspiration to countless Indigenous women and girls dreaming of a career in healthcare. Her tireless efforts as a mentor, speaker and role model have created the space for an entire generation of Indigenous doctors to flourish in this country. She has made possible what so many of us thought was impossible.

It is my personal honour to nominate Dr. Nadine Caron for induction into the Women of Impact in Canada.

3. Dr. Ojistoh Horn

Fast Facts

- Mohawk from the community of Kahnawake
- Eldest daughter of Kahentinéhtha Horn
- BA Anatomy and Cell Biology
- MA Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill
- MD University of British Columbia
- Residency in Family Medicine. McGill
- Fellowship in Maternal and Child Health, McGill
- Sole fulltime permanent physician in the community of Akwesasne (8,000 residents)
- Mother of six children
- Blends traditional and western practices
- Mentors medical students and residents from five neighboring universities
- Also works at two long term care facilities, provides home care, prenatal and well-baby care and most recently helped to coordinate life-saving efforts to mitigate the risk of the novel Coronavirus in her community.

Sample Description

Dr. Ojistoh Horn is an inspiration. A Mohawk woman originally from the community of Kahnawake and the eldest daughter of Kahentinéhtha Horn, Dr. Horn's personal and professional pursuits make her an outstanding nominee for the Canadian Women of Impact. Having started her academic career with an Undergraduate degree in Anatomy and Cell Biology and then a Masters' degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University, she then worked as a researcher for the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project before completing medical school at the University of British Columbia. This was closely followed by a residency in Family Medicine and a fellowship in Maternal and Child Health at McGill University.

Dr. Horn has since established a remarkable medical practice as the *sole fulltime permanent physician* in the community of Akwesasne, home to over 8000 residents, while raising six children. She tirelessly maintains a busy general medicine clinic that blends traditional and western practices while welcoming and mentoring medical students and residents from three neighboring universities. She also works at two long term care facilities, provides home care, prenatal and well-baby care and most recently helped to coordinate efforts to mitigate the risk of the novel Coronavirus in her community. She is also a

passionate advocate for the environment, frequently educating about the devastating sequelae of the nearby industrial pollution on the health and safety of her patients.

Dr. Horn is an extraordinarily dedicated Indigenous woman in Medicine, and it is my honour to nominate her for her exceptional contributions.