



# Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety

*Individual Champion*

**Linda Rankin**

As Project Director, Linda Rankin designed, developed and implemented the *Northern Ontario Postpartum Mood Disorder (PPMD) Strategy* using a community collaboration and consultation model that informed and built the capacity of pre-existing organizations. Presented by The Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing, in partnership with the Thunder Bay Counselling Centre and the B'saanibamaadsiwin Aboriginal Mental Health Program, the goal of this initiative was to develop a strategy for dealing with PPMD across Northern Ontario.

In order to strengthen services for families affected by PPMD, Ms. Rankin contacted and connected 90 existing community PPMD groups in 24 communities across Northern Ontario, creating 8 steering committees representing distinct geographic areas – including one that represents First Nations people. Under Linda's leadership, the steering committees were tasked with trying to better understand the risks, barriers and gaps in PPMD prevention, and identifying and asking families and care providers with lived experience to share their stories through photos and videos. Along with a literature review that outlines best practice in the prevention and treatment of PPMD, and videos with professionals discussing their PPMD research, the stories were published online as the *Northern Ontario PPMD Strategy*, bringing awareness and understanding of PPMD across the north.

Ms. Rankin also spearheaded the formation of a Northern Ontario PPMD Advisory Council with nominations from each steering committee. Further, she has attended many provincial conferences and workshops with the aim of promoting this project across Ontario.

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*The information provided above is taken directly from 2015 Minister's Medal applications –  
Facts and information herein have not been checked for accuracy.*