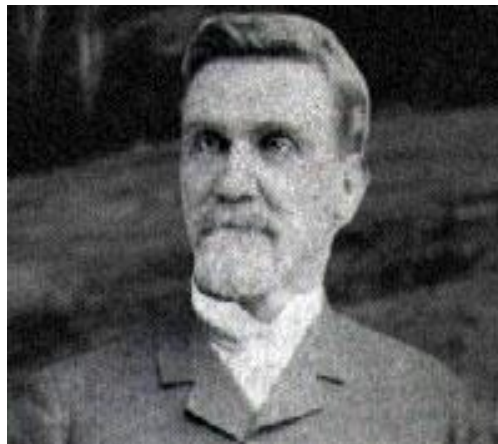

PETER HENDERSON BRYCE, M.D.
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC
HEALTH ADVOCACY FOR FIRST
NATIONS, METIS AND INUIT CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

Award Summary, Criteria and Nomination Form



1853-1932

WHO WAS PETER HENDERSON BRYCE?

Peter Henderson Bryce was born in Mount Pleasant Ontario in 1853 and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1876 when Canada was only 9 years old. He went on to obtain a medical degree and climbed quickly to become one of the foremost experts on tuberculosis and served as President of the American Health Association and founder of the Canadian Public Health Association. He also served as Ontario's first Secretary of Health (1882-1904) before accepting a post as Chief Medical Officer at the Indian Department in 1904. A prolific writer, Bryce authored numerous articles on public health and served as founder and member of many professional organizations. In 1907, Bryce conducted a special inspection of 35 residential schools in three Prairie Provinces. The report found that 24 percent of the children who had been in the schools were dead while over 75 percent of children were dead at File Hills residential school which filed a complete report. The cause of death was primarily related to tuberculosis and Bryce famously said "medical science knows just what to do" to stop the children from dying and he sent a number of recommendations to the Canadian Government for urgent implementation. The Government of Canada, however, largely ignored Bryce's calls for action and the children continued to die, prompting Bryce to step up his advocacy by publishing articles in the Ottawa Citizen newspaper, Saturday Night Magazine and a book called "The Story of a National Crime: An appeal for Justice to the Indians of Canada." Bryce also engaged his colleagues in pressuring the Canadian government including S.H. Blake, a leading human rights lawyer of the time, who wrote that "in Canada fails to obviate the preventable causes of death [to the children in residential schools] it brings itself into unpleasant nearness to manslaughter." Bryce continued his advocacy to the time of his death in 1932. The Canadian Government failed to implement Bryce's recommendations, relieved Bryce of his post and undertook efforts to undermine his credibility. Despite the personal risk and sacrifices, Bryce never gave up. He was a man of moral conscience who acted on his values and responsibilities as a health professional to benefit the most vulnerable population in Canada at a time when many others were silent.

SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS BRYCE SUPPORTED

Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce was very active in his community. Many of the organizations he founded, or supported, continue to play an active role in supporting health and wellness today. For example, Bryce served in the following capacities:

- The Canadian Public Health Association (founder)
- American Public Health Association (served as president and honorary fellow)
- The American Journal of Public Health (contributor)
- Canadian Medical Association, Public Health Section (chairman)
- Canadian Historical Association (founder)
- Ontario Department of Health (founder)
- Upper Canada College (alumni)
- University of Toronto (alumni)
- Arts and Letters Club of Ottawa (served as president)

The breadth of Bryce's contributions speaks to his commitment to inter-disciplinary knowledge and practice in uplifting the holistic health of the community.

THE AWARD

This award recognizes people working in public health who are advocating for systemic changes in order to improve the safety, health or well-being of Inuit, Metis and First Nations children and youth. Recipients must demonstrate an ability to identify structural problems that underlie systemic disadvantage for children and youth, involvement in solutions to address the source problem(s) and active advocacy to ensure the full and proper implementation and evaluation of identified solutions.

Recipients must also demonstrate that their advocacy is based on best principles of public health and demonstrated willingness to advocate in the face of personal/professional challenges and risks.

PROPOSED BENEFIT OF THE AWARD

Bryce is an inspirational case example demonstrating why systemic advocacy is an important responsibility of all health professionals in Canada. As Bryce said "medical science knows just what to do" to save the children in residential schools from dying of tuberculosis at such overwhelming rates and he accepted no rationalizations from the government officials or others for not doing it. He believed children had a right to be healthy and had a right to live. Bryce advocated with the federal government both in public and private to have his recommendations implemented to the time of his death in 1932. The fact that he was unable to compel the federal government to make the changes needed to save the children should not be taken as a sign of failure. Rather it should bolster our conviction to build networks of support and encouragement around people working in the area of public health who are tackling the systemic problems that undermine the health, safety and wellbeing of Inuit, First Nations and/or Metis children. The Bryce award recipient leads movements of systemic change and inspires others to take meaningful action to improve the safety and well-being of children.

Systemic advocacy is very challenging especially when the policies/practices of large organizations or governments are involved. Effective advocacy in health and social services is essential to reducing the disadvantage experienced by many Canadian children and young people. This award highlights the importance of systemic advocacy and rewards those who have the courage and conviction to stand up for the right thing in the face of pressure to be silent. Recipients will no doubt be honoured to stand in Bryce's company and many others will be inspired by Bryce award recipients.

AWARD CRITERIA

- Currently working in the public health field in Canada (i.e.: health and wellness, community health, social services, and child and youth services)
- Actively involved in systemic change advocacy to improve the safety (including cultural safety), health and/or well-being of Metis, Inuit or First Nations children and youth in Canada
- Demonstrated ability to identify structural problems underlying systemic disadvantage for Aboriginal children and youth in Canada, develop or identify evidence-based solutions to address the systemic challenges and advocate for full and proper implementation and evaluation of proposed solutions.
- Advocacy is based on the highest standards of Aboriginal and public health ethics and practices.
- Demonstrates a willingness to advocate in the face of personal/professional challenges and risks.
- Inspires others to care about the advocacy issue affecting children and to take action to help
- Acts in ways consistent with General Comment 11 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Read the General Comment here:
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/GC.11_indigenous_New.pdf

NOMINATION PROCESS

The Peter Henderson Bryce Award nomination form must be completed in full and accompanied by a cover letter that explains **in detail** how the nominee meets the award criteria. The nomination package must also include three letters of support from individuals and organizations that have direct knowledge of the nominees advocacy work for Aboriginal children and youth and can speak to how the nominee meets the award criteria.

The complete nomination package (nomination form, cover letter and letters of reference) must be received no later than noon EST on September 15, 2011. Please send the complete nomination package including letters of support to:

Peter Henderson Bryce Award Committee,
c/o First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
Suite 302, 251 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Please note that incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AWARD

The award recipient will be announced the week of November 14-18, 2011 in recognition of National Children's Day. The awards selection committee will be composed of Dr. Arlington Dungy, Dr. Sue Bennett, Cindy Blackstock, PhD and members appointed by supporting organizations.

SUPPORTING THE AWARD

We encourage everyone to promote the award and encourage people to submit nominations. We are also providing a cash award to the award recipient to advance their advocacy work. The amount of the award is to be determined and we would warmly welcome organizations or individuals who would like to contribute to the award by making a donation. Donations can be made to the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada either on line using Donate Now on the home page of www.fncaringsociety.com or by sending a cheque payable to:

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada,

Suite 302, 251 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON, K2P 1X3

Please note that the donation is for the Bryce award on your cheque or in the comments box for on line donations.

NOMINATION FORM

PH BRYCE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY FOR FIRST NATIONS, METIS AND INUIT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

AWARD NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name	
Employment/volunteer affiliation	
Street Address	
City Prov./Terr. Postal Code	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

AWARD NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name	
How do you know of the nominees advocacy work?	
How long have you known the nominee?	
Street Address	
City Prov./Terr. Postal Code	
Work Phone	

E-Mail Address	
----------------	--

AWARD PACKAGE CHECKLIST

The following documents are included in the award nomination package:

- Complete nomination form
 - Cover letter explaining how the nominee meets the award criteria
 - 3 letters of support
-
-

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

**SEND COMPLETE NOMINATION PACKAGE TO: PH BRYCE AWARDS
COMMITTEE, C/O FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF
CANADA, SUITE 302, 251 BANK STREET, OTTAWA, ON K2P 1X3**
