



CNS Association of Ontario CNS of the Year Award 2026

The **21th annual CNS of the Year Award** (first time given was in April 2006) will be presented during CNS Association of Ontario's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2026. Please review the criteria and submit a completed application with corresponding rationale for those individuals who you feel should be considered.

Purpose:

To provincially recognize a member of the CNS Association of Ontario for outstanding professional achievement as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the domains of advanced nursing practice. The award acknowledges a nurse who demonstrates CNS competencies and exemplary practice in client care, nursing and health care delivery systems. Current board members of the CNS Association of Ontario are not eligible for nomination and should not be involved in nomination processes.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The candidate must be nominated by a Registered Nurse (both should be members of RNAO in good standing).
2. The candidate has a current Ontario certificate of competence and currently resides in Ontario.
3. The candidate must have current membership in CNS Association of Ontario for one year or longer.
4. The candidate must have **at least 2 years of experience as a Clinical Nurse Specialist**.
5. The candidate must serve as a role model to nursing colleagues by :
 - a. Maintaining an outstanding level of skill and knowledge in their specialty area.
 - b. Utilizing or demonstrating CNS competencies in the five domains of advanced nursing practice.
 - c. Demonstrating quality client outcomes as a result of his/her practice.
 - d. Supporting nurses in the delivery of client care or the advancement of nursing practice.
 - e. Promoting change or collaboration at the system level to improve or impact client care.
6. The candidate actively promotes the role of the CNS.

Award:

A one-year complimentary membership to CNS Association of Ontario, a certificate, non-transferable complimentary registration to CNS Association of Ontario's AGM **June 2026** and a key chain—CNS. Recipient will be asked to attend the **zoom meeting**. A picture of the award winner will be taken at the AGM and profiled in an upcoming CNS Association of Ontario's newsletter.

Selection:

Applications received by the deadline will undergo review by the selection committee. All of the candidate's information including supporting documentation must be received no later than **Friday, May 15th, 2026 at 1500 hours (3:00pm)**.

This deadline will be strictly adhered to in the selection process. The nominators of the successful candidate will be notified prior to notification of the winning candidate. The recipient will then be notified by the President of the CNS Association of Ontario.

Instructions:

1. The candidate should provide information supporting the nomination relating to the specific criteria for the award.
2. All submissions must be submitted individually by the nominators. If submitting electronically, documents must be in Microsoft Word format.
3. The candidate's name should **not** appear anywhere in the body of the material submitted. The candidate's name should appear only on a separate cover page.
4. Two letters of recommendation must be submitted. Both nomination letters must be submitted by Registered Nurses. The candidate's name should not appear in the letter of recommendation. Please refer to the nominee as "the candidate." Each of the criteria must be addressed in the letters with an example. Submission from other individuals may also be included. All information will remain strictly confidential and will not be returned.
5. Selection is made based only on the information submitted.
6. Submit a separate statement of 300 words or less describing the candidate (excerpts will be read when presenting the award at the Annual General Meeting).
7. The recipient of this award will be notified by the week before.

CNS-Nomination Form to be completed (CNS for the Year Award 2026):

Candidate's name:

Information on the Nominator:

Submitted by : _____

Credentials : _____

Job title : _____

Tel. (day) : _____

Preferred e-mail address :

Address of the nominator :

Please, both (**candidate** and **nominator**) should provide a copy of the RNAO / CNS-ON membership

Information on the candidate:

Candidate's name : _____

Credentials : _____

Job title : _____

Tel. (day) : _____

Preferred e-mail address :

Home address of the candidate :

Work address of the candidate :

Deadline for submission:

- Friday, May 15th, 2026 at 1500 hours (3:00pm)

Submit to:

**Clinical Nurse Specialist
Association of Ontario**

Subject: CNS-ON -- CNS of the Year Award.
CNSOntario1@gmail.com