

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL PRESENTED TO ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP PSYCHIATRIST

(Thunder Bay, ON. November 19, 2009) St. Joseph's Care Group is pleased to announce the presentation of the Canadian Forces General Service Medal to Dr. Patricia LePage, Program Medical Director, Seniors Mental Health Programs, St. Joseph's Care Group. Dr. LePage is being recognized for her work in Kandahar, Afghanistan before coming to Thunder Bay to work in Geriatric Psychiatry at St. Joseph's Care Group.

Representatives from the Canadian Armed Forces traveled to Thunder Bay to make the presentation at an afternoon reception today. Colonel Jean Grondin and Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Murielle Arsenault joined St. Joseph's Care Group Leadership Team members, friends and colleagues to celebrate Dr. LePage's achievement.

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, St. Joseph's Care Group commented, "We are proud to have someone as honourable and duty-filled as Dr. LePage working with us. Today is about celebrating and recognizing her generous efforts in Afghanistan."

Dr. LePage served four months and developed a thriving practice in Afghanistan. She says, "I am proud to receive this medal. It was a privilege to serve the NATO forces and I was fortunate to have the opportunity. I came to understand a level of loyalty that I had rarely seen, in fact, probably never seen, except in the Canadian military members. Prior to my time in Afghanistan, I had never had contact with the military way of life and took it for granted like most Canadians."

The General Service Medal (GSM) was created as a means to recognize those who provide direct support to operations in the presence of an armed enemy. The GSM is awarded to members of the Canadian Forces (CF), members of allied forces, and depending on the operation, to Canadian citizens who are deployed outside Canada.

For more information contact:

Brook Latimer
Public Education Coordinator
St. Joseph's Care Group
(807) 346-5226 (office)
(807) 629-1372 (cell)



ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP
Celebrating 125 Years of Care
1884 - 2009

**St. Joseph's Hospital • St. Joseph's Heritage • Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital • Hogarth Riverview Manor • Balmoral Centre
St. Joseph's Health Centre • Behavioural Sciences Centre • Diabetes Health Thunder Bay • Sister Margaret Smith Centre**

St. Joseph's Care Group is accredited with Accreditation Canada and provides services in complex care, rehabilitation, mental health and addictions, long-term care and supportive housing. Community programs are provided at Frank Murphy Community Centre.

St. Joseph's Care Group has approximately 1700 employees and over 400 volunteers. With an annual operating budget of \$125M, SJCG is the fifth largest employer in Thunder Bay. To learn more about SJCG, visit the web site at www.sjcg.net