



Announcement of 2026 MacNaught-Taillon Leadership Award Recipient Owen Adams, PhD

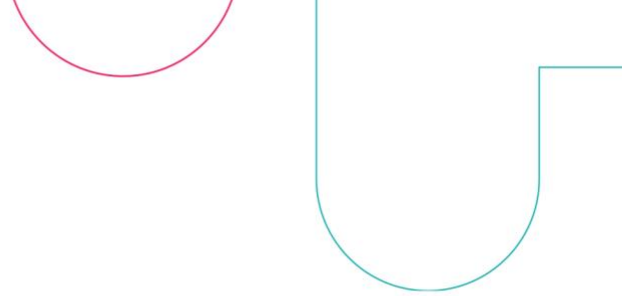
May 14, 2026 (Ottawa): The [Canadian Health Leadership Network \(CHLNet\)](#), [Healthcare Excellence Canada](#) and [eHealth 2026](#) (hosted by Canada Health Infoway, Canadian Institute for Health Information and Digital Health Canada) are pleased to announce the 2026 recipient of the [MacNaught-Taillon Leadership Award \(M&T award\)](#): Owen Adams, PhD, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Canadian Medical Association (CMA).

Established in 2008, this award honours the outstanding and lasting contributions of Don MacNaught and Serge Taillon to the Canadian health care system. Owen knew both Don and Serge well and noted they are “two truly great Canadians.” Previous winners include Vivek Goel (2023), Jennifer Zelmer (2020), Brian Postl (2017), Les Roos (2014), Richard Alvarez (2011), and Denis Protti (2008). A pan Canadian committee selects this award’s recipient with an endowment allowing for the award to be given every three years. A formal presentation will be made at the June 15th eHealth2026 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

It is widely recognized that the shortage in health human resources (HHR) is one of the most pressing issues facing Canadian health systems in Canada. Owen’s call for better HHR data collection and integrated workforce planning has been longstanding. He was a driving force behind the CMA research unit that developed a national physician survey in conjunction with other key interest holders. An annual National Health Policy Conference series supported by Owen provided an opportunity to share innovations in HHR data collection and planning to an audience of provincial and territorial medical associations and other medical stakeholders. Further, Owen has been sounding the alarm for several years on the growing gap between the number of advertised positions for family physicians and the numbers of newly graduated family physicians.

His work with the Virtual Care Task Force—a collaboration between the CMA, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada—resulted in timely recommendations put forward weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, including a call to develop a pan-Canadian Framework for Patient-centric Health Information Architecture. Owen continues to be a highly respected resource and repository for not only his CMA colleagues but for a much wider health information and policy community across the country. He is a policy convener, creating space and opportunity for data-oriented discussions for many working in this field while developing and supporting the next generation of health policy analysts.

Owen has a PhD (Population Health), University of Ottawa and a Master of Arts (Sociology), University of Western Ontario. He has held many positions at CMA from Vice-President, Health Policy & Research to Chief, Health Planning and Physician Human Resources. His long and



distinguished career began at Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada and has resulted in a long list of publications and reports.

The award is accompanied by a \$1,500 bursary to an emerging health leader as selected by the M&T award winner. Krishnu Singh is delighted to accept the M&T Bursary – she started at CMA as a summer student in 2025 and has continued throughout this year – working on AI in health among other projects. This fall she will be starting in the [Master of Health Informatics at the Institute of Health Policy & Management](#) program at the University of Toronto.