

MacNaught-Taillon Leadership Award 2026

Terms of Reference

The Purpose: The MacNaught-Taillon (M&T) Leadership Award recognizes exemplary leaders and mentors in advancing health information systems in support of evidence-informed health policy and higher-quality health care across Canada.

Background: Established in 2008, the M&T Leadership Award honours the outstanding and lasting contributions of Don MacNaught and Serge Taillon in advancing evidence-informed health policy across Canada. Having served in a number of senior health leadership positions in the federal public service, Don and Serge were instrumental to initiatives such as the Canada Health Act, the National Health Information Council, the National Health Information Task Force and, subsequently, the creation of the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Their vision, leadership and mentorship contributed significantly to better health and health care for all Canadians through more accessible and reliable health information. The M&T Leadership Award has been made possible by generous corporate and individual charitable contributions.¹

Eligibility: The criteria for the M&T Award include:

- Supporting the development of future leaders in Canadian health information, health policy and patient partnerships;
- Fostering effective linkages and exchanges in support of evidence-informed health policy;
- Fostering innovative pan-Canadian approaches for gathering and sharing health information;
- Contributing to the vision of an integrated health information system in Canada; and
- Expanding the development of health information systems to support health policy.

Process: The M&T Award involves a partnership of: Canadian Health Leadership Network (CHLNet), Healthcare Excellence Canada, Canada Health Infoway (CHI) and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). The funding is held in trust by the Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC) Foundation. HEC was established to work with partners to spread innovations, build capability and catalyze policy changes so that everyone in Canada has safe and high-quality health care.

- The M&T Award is presented at the e-Health Conference, an annual event that brings together the top minds and talent from the Canadian digital health community. The e-Health conference is jointly hosted by three organizations: CHI, CIHI and Digital Health Canada.
- Secretariat assistance is provided by CHLNet, whose aim is to support the advancement of exemplary health leaders in Canada.

¹ Note of thanks: Since its inception, the M&T Award has been generously supported by the Justice Emmett Hall Memorial Foundation and the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR). In 2022 a decision was made to conduct a review of the M&T Award, the outcomes of which are reflected in this document and include a stronger emphasis on growing leadership capacity for the future.



The prestigious M&T Award is presented every three years. Nominations are solicited widely across the Canadian health community and must be received by an established deadline. Selection of the recipient is adjudicated by a committee comprised of one representative from each of the following: HEC, CIHI, CHI, CHLNet, and a member/friend from both the MacNaught and the Taillon families. The recipient is invited to accept the M&T Award and give a short address at the annual e-Health Conference (travel and accommodation expenses covered). The M&T Award is accompanied by a bursary to support further training, research or education which is given to an emerging leader in health information/informatics and/or patient partner leader, as designated by the Award recipient.

Approved: January 5, 2026