

Pandemic/COVID-19 Special Recognition Award Winner Kaitlan Laviolette

We are very proud to announce that our very own Nurse Practitioner, Kaitlan Laviolette has been awarded the Ontario Long-Term Care Clinicians Pandemic/COVID-19 Special Recognition Award for 2021. This award is given in recognition of the valued contributions of someone who has gone above and beyond during the pandemic.

During the entire COVID-19 pandemic, Kaitlan has played a crucial role in the care of residents and both Grace and Faith Manors.

Kaitlan has not only provided around the clock, hands-on care for our residents, shoulder to shoulder with our staff, but also led communications with families, members of the care team and external partners. Kaitlan sat on a regional response team and actively advocated and engaged in communications regarding pandemic response, resources required, and lessons learned. Kaitlan worked closely with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) team when they arrived to support Grace Manor, as well as with other stakeholders who rose to the occasion to support the residents and staff at the home.

When COVID hit Faith Manor in October of last year, without hesitation, Kaitlan proactively coordinated and led the outbreak response within the manor by engaging with community partners and key stakeholders. Kaitlan again worked tirelessly in partnership with the home's medical director and care team to ensure the residents medical care needs were met, without any negative impact to the overall nursing quality care.

Earlier this year, when some relief from the pandemic was in sight with the arrivals of the vaccines, Kaitlan again played a crucial role in providing education to residents, families, and staff regarding the vaccine its effectiveness, with an evidence-based lens. Kaitlan took the time to help ease hesitancy and increase vaccine uptake among staff to better protect our residents and communities.

Despite the traumatic experiences from the first outbreak experienced at Grace Manor, Kaitlan utilized lessons learned and key best practice initiatives to coordinate outbreak response at Faith Manor, with unwavering commitment to ensuring resident care was not compromised. Kaitlan emulates the front lines of COVID-19 response in long-term care homes across Ontario. Our residents, families, and teams will forever be in debt to Kaitlan for her selfless acts of service to both Grace and Faith Manor.

We are incredibly proud of Kaitlan for winning this prestigious award, and we are tremendously grateful for all that she has been, and continues to be, to the whole community at HCH.

