

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Dr. Deb Tomlinson Award for Excellence in Collaboration

About the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services

The Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) brings together a network of specialized sexual violence and trauma specific services. Together we are many voices working towards one shared purpose – safe communities free from sexual violence.

To achieve our shared purpose, AASAS focuses on:

CONNECTING VOICES

By mobilizing and amplifying the voices of millions of Albertans who care deeply about this issue, which impacts nearly 1 in 2 of us. Together our many voices support survivors and the people who love them.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

By bringing together sexual assault services to represent and reflect the perspectives of people from across Alberta, urban and rural. We find common ground and unite on the biggest issues and opportunities within the sector.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Around sexual violence by sharing insights from direct service providers, researchers and advocates to inform policy and funding decisions that build the capacity of the sector and improve access to justice and support services that help keep Alberta communities healthy and safe.

About the Dr. Deb Tomlinson Award for Excellence in Collaboration

Upon her retirement in September 2023, in recognition of her exceptional leadership as a gifted collaborator in the collective effort to end sexual violence, AASAS awarded Deb Tomlinson the inaugural Award for Excellence in Collaboration. Henceforth, each year AASAS will award a deserving individual the Dr. Deb Tomlinson Award for Excellence in Collaboration to celebrate a continued commitment to collaboration and honor her legacy.

Nomination Criteria

Representing our commitment to the values and principles of collaboration, the Dr. Deb Tomlinson Award for Excellence in Collaboration celebrates not only individual excellence but also the ability to unite diverse perspectives, values, and strengths towards achieving the AASAS network's shared purpose of safe communities free from sexual violence. Nominees should exemplify the following qualities:

CHAMPION OF COLLABORATION

The nominee consistently promotes and encourages collaboration across teams, departments, or stakeholders, fostering an inclusive environment where diverse voices are valued and integrated.

AUTHENTICITY AND TRUST

They demonstrate authenticity in their interactions, encouraging others to bring their true selves to collaborative efforts. By nurturing trust and openness, they create an atmosphere where ideas flow freely and innovative solutions emerge.

RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED APPROACH

They prioritize building strong relationships based on mutual respect, empathy, and genuine connection. They understand that the quality of relationships directly impacts the quality of collaboration and strive to cultivate meaningful connections.

ALIGNMENT OF VALUES

The nominee facilitates discussions and initiatives that bridge differences and find common ground among stakeholders. They navigate challenges with diplomacy, ensuring that shared values guide decisions and actions.

IMPACT AND RESULTS

Through their collaborative efforts, they have made significant contributions to preventing and addressing sexual violence, driving measurable outcomes and advancing key initiatives that benefit the AASAS network's shared purpose of safe communities free from sexual violence.

INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP

They inspire others to embrace collaboration as a core value and empower others to contribute their best towards collective achievements. Their leadership encourages continuous improvement and innovation through collaborative efforts.

How to Nominate Someone

To nominate someone for the Dr. Deb Tomlinson Award for Excellence in Collaboration please complete the nomination form or submit a nomination package to mailbox@asas.ca by **noon on July 31, 2026**, with the following information. Include specific examples throughout your responses where possible:

- Nominator name, e-mail address, organization they work for or are associated with, and relationship to Nominee.
- Nominee name, e-mail address, and organization they work for or are associated with.
- Relationship of Nominator to Nominee.
- Please complete the nomination form by providing the following information:
 - Briefly describe the nominee's current role.
 - Provide a short professional biography of the nominee (approximately 100 words) and include a LinkedIn profile, if available.
 - Describe one specific example of how the nominee brought people or organizations together to achieve a shared outcome (150 words maximum).
 - Describe the impact of the nominee's collaborative leadership, including any outcomes for survivors, organizations, systems, communities, policy, or the AASAS Network (150 words maximum).
 - Explain how the nominee embodies the spirit of the Dr. Deb Tomlinson Award for Excellence in Collaboration through trust, relationship-building, shared purpose, and collaborative leadership (100 words maximum).
 - Identify the scope of the nominee's impact (check all that apply): within one organization; across multiple organizations; across the AASAS Network; provincial; national; policy/systems change; survivor support; public awareness.

Selection Process

A selection committee comprised of representatives from AASAS' Board of Directors will review nominations based on the criteria above. Only successful nominees will be contacted each year.

As there are many deserving recipients for this award, unsuccessful nominees may be considered in subsequent years.

The Dr. Deb Tomlinson Award for Excellence in Collaboration will be presented at AASAS' Annual General Meeting, celebrating the recipient's dedication to fostering collaboration and inspiring others towards our shared purpose of safe communities free from sexual violence.