



## Programs of Distinction Award 2023

### Seneca Warmline of the Sara Riel Winnipeg, Manitoba



The CHAC Program of Distinction Award recognizes a program that is innovative, responds to a demonstrated need in the community, and provides service to people who are vulnerable and marginalized.

This year's recipient is the Seneca Warmline of the Sara Riel organization in Winnipeg. CEO Tara Snider is with us in Montreal and I would invite her to the podium. The Seneca Warmline was established in March 2020 to offer a dedicated telephone service to Manitobans struggling with issues which affected their mental health and wellness during the isolation and quarantine resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since then, over 45,000 people have been supported. By offering 24-hour access to a

compassionate ear, a calming voice, and a wealth of available resources, the Warmline has provided clients with an essential component of their mental health recovery. In the words of clients served by the Warmline:

- "Out of all the services in Winnipeg, you are the most accessible."
- "Whenever I needed you guys and to talk to someone, you guys were always there. I don't know what I'd do without you guys."
- "There's no limitations to how many calls you get. People don't refuse mental health support. Other places may tell you to try some place else."

Congratulations Tara, and please extend our appreciation to the entire team!