



## **THE MONICA HERBERT AWARD**

Canadian Association for Play Therapy (CAPT) Monica Herbert Award History of the Award  
The Canadian Association for Play Therapy calls for nominations for the Monica Herbert Award.

### **History of the Award**

This award was established in honour of Monica Herbert, whose courage, devotion, and unwavering commitment to supporting the emotional well-being of children continues to inspire the field of play therapy. Monica embodied the values of compassion, resilience, and excellence in therapeutic work with children, and this award serves as a tribute to the meaningful contributions she made during her life.

Monica Herbert passed away on July 5, 2019, leaving behind a legacy of love and service. She was a cherished wife and devoted mother to two sons and a daughter. Monica graduated from the Child Care Worker program at George Brown College in June 1988 and later pursued a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Waterloo. Her clinical training in play therapy began at Homestead Group Home in Goderich, under the guidance of Dr. Betty Bedard Bidwell. Monica was deeply dedicated to helping children, with a particular interest in supporting those with autism. Monica's aspirations included becoming a Certified Child Psychotherapist and Play Therapist through the Canadian Association for Child and Play Therapy, completing her academic studies,

and continuing her private practice with children. Her journey, however, was profoundly impacted by serious health challenges. In late 1992 and early 1993, Monica underwent two brain surgeries to address life-threatening aneurysms. Though her recovery was marked by resilience, she experienced severe aphasia—a significant communication disorder—which deeply affected her ability to return to the work she loved.

Despite these challenges, Monica’s legacy lives on through the lives she touched and the professional community she helped shape. The **Monica Herbert Award** was created to honour her strength, dedication, and heartfelt service to children. It is awarded annually to recognize outstanding achievements or contributions to the field of play therapy, reflecting Monica’s enduring spirit and the vital importance of therapeutic care for children.

Recipients will have made a significant impact on CAPT through dedication, competence and exceptional performance, as demonstrated by one or more of the following:

- Outstanding clinical work using play therapy;
- Research related to play therapy through a book, article, or paper;
- Community or Committee work supporting CAPT by furthering the field of play therapy.
- Making exceptional contributions to the lives of children.

Nominations are to be made by members of The Canadian Association for Play Therapy.

The recipient will be presented with The Monica Herbert Award Plaque. The award will be presented each year at the Association’s Annual General Meeting. Our members are now invited to make nominations for this year’s award. These should be submitted to The Canadian Association for Play Therapy.

Please complete the nominee form and a one or two paragraph description of their contributions to the field of play therapy or the achievements that are to be recognized. We believe that this award is a fitting way to recognize Monica’s achievements and eagerly await this year’s nominations.

Forward the completed nomination form along with a biography of the nominee by April 30<sup>th</sup> to:

Bridget Revell	Sandra Webb	Dr. Laura Mill
Cindy Taylor	Lorie Walton	Barbara Jones Warrick
Sandy Foster	Dr. Nancy Riedel Bowers	Margot Sippel
Dr. Betty Bedard-Bidwell	Ken Gardner	Elizabeth A. Sharpe
Bonnie Bodnar	Hannah Sun-Reid	Kip Sharpe
Dr. Evangeline Munns	Kathy Eugster	Edward Vella
Lynn Pinterics	Susan Garofolo	Lori Wareham-Mulrooney
Linda Perry	Liana Lowenstein	
Gregory Lubimiv	Theresa Fraser	