



Ruth Martin Award for Community Service

Conferred upon Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (WISE) on June 25, 2024

“W” “I” “S” “E” Ottawa, a non-profit women’s organization, dedicates itself to promoting safety and ending violence against women in the Ottawa area. Their tireless efforts aim to make Ottawa “SAFER FOR WOMEN, SAFER FOR ALL!”

WISE Ottawa focuses on crime prevention and safety for women and girls. They provide tangible solutions to combat violence and enhance safety in neighbourhoods. Their work is community-driven, responsive, and thorough. In response to sexual assaults in downtown Ottawa during the 1990s, a group was formed to address violence against women and women’s safety in public areas. The group assessed safety in various environments, including parking lots, underground garages, open spaces, and shopping centers. Shockingly, 50% of women experience at least one instance of physical or sexual violence before the age of 16.

WISE Ottawa offers a variety of programs:

WISE Ottawa conducts **Safety Audits** to assess and improve safety in public spaces.

They offer free basic car and bike safety and mechanics **Workshops**.

WISE Ottawa Collaborates with Netroots, University of Ottawa to raise awareness about intimate partner dating violence.

They **Engage Youth** (ages 8-12) in discussions about masculinity, gender norms, and violence against women.

WISE Ottawa offers **Personal Safety Workshops**. These workshops are tailored to different circumstances, including women from diverse backgrounds, speaking different languages, and newcomers to Canada.

WISE Ottawa works hard to create a **Safer Environment**. They consult on constructing new spaces to ensure they don’t raise safety concerns.

They firmly believe that making the community safer for women and vulnerable groups benefits everyone.

The valuable work and commitment of **WISE Ottawa** deserve recognition.

They are worthy of the Ruth Martin Community Service Award from the Rotary Club of West Ottawa. On behalf of **WISE Ottawa**, **Elsy David** please come forward to accept the award.

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Ruth Martin, after whom this Award is named, dedicated much of her life to the betterment of the community at large. Ruth's husband, John Martin, established this Award with the Rotary Club of West Ottawa after she died in tribute to her ideals and life of service to the community.

The Awardee must have performed noteworthy service over a period of years for the well-being of the community that encompasses the National Capital Region. Any organization or individual is eligible Except the Rotary Club of West Ottawa or members of that Club.

The following people and organizations in Ottawa to date have received this award:

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| 1996 Patricia Henry | 1997 Elsie Gertrude Scott |
| 1998 Elizabeth I. Davies | 1999 Margaret Pranschke |
| 2000 Diane Craig | 2001 Moe Atallah |
| 2002 Eva Lamb | 2003 Marion Gullock |
| 2004 Jim McNeill | 2005 Barry Bregman |
| 2006 Charles Austin | 2008 Elaine Garfinkel |
| 2009 Kevin Frost | 2010 Mark Emery |
| 2011 Don Flynn | 2012 Margaret Knight |
| 2013 Hazel Bowen | 2014 Kent & Mary Brown |
| 2016 Rev. Anthony Bailey | 2018 Isabelle Nicol & Sandra Garland |
| 2019 Shehla Kerim | 2020 Jenn Hayward |
| 2021 Myrna Hay | 2022 Shepherds of Good Hope |
| 2023 Brittany Belanger | 2024 WISE Ottawa & Kitty Galt |