

The Brian Halferty Award: Description

In November, 1987, school Chaplains from all over Ontario gathered together for the first time. A year later, in October, 1988 the **Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario (CSCO)** was incorporated and its constitution ratified. The first executive of CSCO began the work of establishing contact with other provincial organizations and partners in Catholic Education, initiating networking among school Chaplains, printing the first newsletter, publishing a document outlining the role of chaplains in schools entitled "Worth Their Keep," and the arduous work of giving a clearer definition to Chaplaincy. Brian Halferty, as one of the founders of the Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario, was an integral part of all this work . Brian served as a chaplain with the Toronto Catholic District School Board from 1987 until his retirement in 2007. Throughout his career, Brian made a significant impact on the development and promotion of high school chaplaincy and through his efforts high school chaplaincy became an established, professional, respected constituent of Catholic education in Ontario. Brian served a total of twelve years on the CSCO Executive, was dedicated to the pursuit of justice and peace, and created and maintained a website for the organization. High school chaplaincy in Ontario, and the CSCO, owes much to Brian Halferty for his leadership and vision, his passion and commitment, in forging a path for lay professional ministry where there was none.

The Brian Halferty Award was first presented in 2008, and is given to a Chaplaincy Leader actively serving in a school, whose service exceeds the usual demands of ministry, who positively contributes to the view and position of chaplaincy leaders in Ontario.

Nomination forms are available to CSCO members through the website and are due one week before the annual conference. The CSCO Executive reviews the nominations and makes the final decision on the recipient of the award, based on support provided with the nomination. The winner is announced during the conference at the banquet.

Past Recipients include:

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| 2011 | Stan Muldoon |
| 2010 | Filomena Tassi |
| 2009 | Brad Lewis |
| 2008 | Denise Colterman-Fox |