

## 2026 CSPM Humanitarian Award Recipient



### DR. MARIE-HÉLÈNE MARCHAND

The Canadian Society of Palliative Medicine (CSPM) is pleased to award the 2026 Humanitarian Award to Dr. Marie-Hélène Marchand in recognition of her exceptional quality of care and advocacy serving people facing barriers to accessing care, especially palliative care.

Dr. Marchand's humanitarian work has positively impacted people at a local and regional level. She began caring for underserved populations 15 years ago first in Nunavik and through her work with unhoused people to which she provides palliative care. To ensure she was providing the level of care and skill required for underserved populations, Dr. Marchand completed a Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences, Ethics component from the Université de Montréal (UdM) with a focus on dying in a situation of homeless in Quebec.

In 2024, Dr. Marchand advanced humanitarian care by co-founding [Projet Maison Mobile](#) through the Excellence en santé Canada fund. Project Maison Mobile is an innovative initiative focused on enhancing palliative care access especially for those who are unhoused or those suffering from a serious illness and are living in a highly unstable housing environment in Montréal.

The impact of Dr. Marchand's work cannot be overstated. In addition to improving palliative care access for the unhoused population, she was instrumental in creating a new rotation for students and residents in this area, fostered a partnership between different palliative care settings (e.g., between hospitals and hospices), and supports Maison du Père – end of life in shelters, in an effort to provide care to this population. From 2014 to 2018, she worked as a public health consultant and developed and co-facilitated a 5-day training program in palliative care for Inuit interpreters, and four on-site trainings per year in Nunavik. In addition to her work providing palliative care for people experiencing homelessness, she also works as a physician at an addiction medicine clinic and as a medical consultant in palliative care in Nunavik.

As an advocate, Dr. Marchand's activities bring awareness to the palliative medicine field and access for palliative care services by the most vulnerable. Since 2017, she has participated in several radio and television interviews for prominent news outlets such as Radio-Canada and Global News covering topics such as palliative care, dignity in care, and the unhoused. Her

advocacy efforts were recently honoured as she was named as one of [Les Personalités de l'année 2025](#) (Personalities of the Year 2025) by the magazine L'actualité, alongside two colleagues. Les Personalités de l'année by L'actualité recognizes individuals who advance society towards a brighter future.

As a hardworking parent of 3, Dr. Marchand's humanitarian work highlights the needs of a vulnerable group, one that typically lacks access to palliative care in Montréal.