

Doctor receives award for engagement on health issues

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MN August 7, 2013

Rolling up his sleeves and getting involved in the community is a fundamental part of Dr. Colin Saldanha's life.

In Mississauga, and beyond, he has a well-deserved reputation for his charitable work and public service after serving on numerous boards and committees. The awards and

accolades are also fairly numerous for the man named Mississauga's Citizen of the Year in 2010.

Saldanha can add another honour to his list after it was recently announced he will receive the Canadian Medical Association's 2013 Sir Charles Tupper Award for Political Action in recognition of his work to educate the government, policy-makers and the public on health issues.

Saldanha is an active member of the CMA's MD/MP Contact program, a grassroots advocacy initiative that connects CMA members with their local member of parliament. Through the program, he pursued a number of causes including mental illness, physician shortages, health care budgets and others.

"It's very, very humbling to receive this recognition from your peers in a national organization for work I enjoy doing on a day-to-day basis," said Saldanha, who lives in Lorne Park. "It's always nice to be recognized for the work you love and want to do."

There are many reasons for Saldanha's desire to give back to the community but he credits his deep Christian faith and his love of his adopted country (he immigrated here in 1981) as two of the biggest.

"My faith (asks) we look after and care for the marginalized and that has a huge impetus in shaping the contributions I've made to my community," said Saldanha.

He's been involved as chair of the United Way of Peel Region board and public policy committee, the Peel Police Services Board, the Mississauga Board of Trade, the health advisory board of the South Asian Professional Network Association and Peel Multicultural Council, just to name a few.

As a doctor, he has a unique perspective on the community as he sees members from all walks of life including those who are young and old, affluent and working class, newcomers and long-time residents. And, he said that perspective and role affords him a chance to bend the ears of those in positions of power.

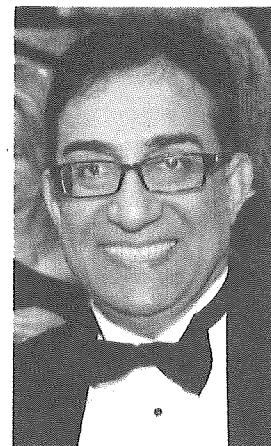
"As a physician, people tend to pause and thoughtfully listen to what I have to say," said Saldanha.

CMA president Dr. Anna Reid lauded Saldanha for his contributions.

"The leadership of Dr. Saldanha in advocating to governments for much-needed improvements to our country's health care system is a model for others to emulate," said Reid. "His extensive involvement in the social determinants of health and health-related inequities facing marginalized, vulnerable population groups makes him highly deserving of this medal."

Other awards for Saldanha include the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal, a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and Rotary International's prestigious Paul Harris Award.

Saldanha will receive his award on Aug. 21 at a ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Calgary Hotel during the CMA's annual meeting.



Dr. Colin Saldanha is to receive the Canadian Medical Association's 2013 Sir Charles Tupper Award for Political Action.