



# CONGRATULATIONS, BERNICE RITCHIE!

FOR WINNING THE 2021-2022  
DR. ROBERT (BOB) ANTONE  
MEMORIAL AWARD.



# Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario

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## Congratulations! You have been chosen to receive the 2021 2022 Bob Antone Memorial Award

Dr. Robert - "Bob" Antone was a champion for the Indigenous Shelter movement. He understood the challenges shelters faced, such as the oppression they experience from Community and Leadership. He was a fierce supporter and defender of Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario (ASOO). He is fondly remembered as "willing to be the muscle" – he disliked the politics of getting things done and acted as a voice of reason by speaking up and using his voice in a good way in support of ASOO.

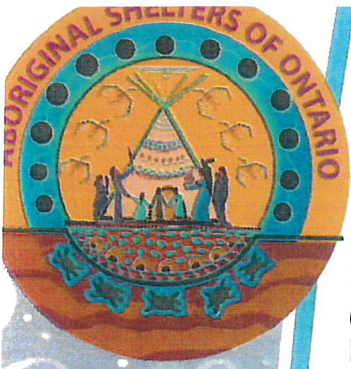
Bob returned to the Spirit World December 8<sup>th</sup> 2017. We honour and remember his hard work and dedication with the Bob Antone Memorial Award.

Individuals are nominated based on the demonstration of the following qualities:

**A person that. . .** *'walks the talk'*  
*demonstrates passion and perseverance*  
*has shown dedication to the shelter sector*  
*that honours their culture and traditions*  
*has a sense of justice and knows right from wrong*  
*goes above and beyond in her/his work*

Your Shelter leader had these kind words to say about you:

Bernice's name stands out for all the qualities identified in your post. Bernice has worked as a full-time support worker for 19 years. This woman is always the first to help out with anything that we put on in the shelter. She does carpentry work when things need fixing and she can fix almost anything. Bernice comes in when needed ring serious crisis situations just to make sure everyone is good and including the workers on shift. Bernice is always there to comfort families in need during the loss of a loved one, she prepares food, delivers food, and sewn many masks for the community. She has made comfort lap blankets for some who are grieving or going through a difficult time with personal things. She bakes pies, home cooking and - she always supports all of us in times of struggle.



Bernice is comical and tells the best stories of herself or of things that she has seen in the most humorous way. Gathering as a group she can make us laugh and she also has another side of her that says, "don't get in my way or else". Bernice is well respected in our community. She helped to raise all of her nieces and nephews as her siblings were tragically lost. She is a strong woman with a big heart and for this reason, she deserves this award. Please consider this inspirational woman as a candidate for this honourable award.

Bernice, you are appreciated and valued, an asset to the shelter as well as an admired lady in your community. You demonstrate passion and perseverance; a strong, beautiful, caring soul! Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario is honoured and proud to present you with the 2021-2022 Bob Antone Memorial award.

On behalf of Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario  
With Respect,

*Jeanine and Alicia*