



April 24, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On the tail end of National Volunteer Week, the Social Planning Council Oxford (SPCO) is pleased to announce that Amanda Cook is the recipient of this year's Social Justice Award. The yearly award recognizes those in Oxford who devote their time and energy to the pursuit of social justice.

The award criteria is as follows:

- clear impact on the community;
- ongoing commitment to social justice causes; and,
- a trailblazer in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In these difficult times, it is a breath of fresh air to recognize the contributions of Amanda and our many social justice warriors, including all of the applications that we received, for working tirelessly to see social change.

Amanda Cook has shown ongoing commitment to her community through her employment as an outreach worker at the Oxford County Community Health Centre, where she goes above and beyond for clients and community partners, meeting people where they are at, offering empathy and responding to concerns. She works at system level change and at a moment's notice will organize with others to meet a community need. Amanda has held various volunteer positions including but not limited to the Tillsonburg Optimists, Board Member for Dereham Forge Housing Cooperative Tillsonburg and involvement in various community food drives. Amanda demonstrates that she is a social justice warrior in how she shows up every day. She wears her passion for her community on her sleeve.

Amanda will be formally recognized in the spring at the SPCO virtual annual general meeting. Should you wish to nominate a community member for next year's Social Justice Award, please check the SPCO website in December for information on how to apply:

<http://spcoxford.ca> .

For further information on the Social Justice Awards or the Social Planning Council Oxford, please contact Stephanie Ellens-Clark at stephanie.ellens-clark@spcoxford.ca or 226-228-0539.