

IPAC Awards: Nomination Process for 2026

Launch

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) is the largest professional association for public administrators across Canada.

We're proud to announce the launch of the nomination process for the IPAC Awards. Awards given by IPAC recognize excellence in public administration and public service across Canada. We seek to identify individuals whose work exemplifies the very best in public service among Canadian jurisdictions. IPAC will confer awards at the 2026 Annual Conference in Ottawa from October 5th - 7th, 2026. The deadline for nominations is May 30th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

If you have any questions, please contact David Fulford, CEO of IPAC, at: dfulford@ipac.ca

Submissions

- All submissions for IPAC awards will use the same nomination form
- Nominations must include a concise description of the initiative and its merits.
- The project or initiative would have been implemented or current in 2025.
- Nominations should be no longer than 1,000 words.
- Reference letters are critical; each nomination must be accompanied by a minimum of two and a maximum of three references from individuals who were not directly involved with the nominee's work.
- Reference letters should be 750 words or less.

The nomination submission should address the following three criteria:

- Meaningful results with extensive, documented impact
- Effectiveness, efficiencies and/or cost savings
- Scalability as a prototype for others to use

Additional consideration will be given to projects with regard to the following criteria:

- Implications for good environmental stewardship
- Equity, inclusion, and diversity
- Digitally grounded.

Adjudication of IPAC Awards has a two-tier process. The nominations are screened by an awards committee that will develop a shortlist of the nominations. The jury will then

determine the winner for each category. Awards granted to teams (e.g., Innovation Award) shall be granted to a maximum of ten members of the team.

Award Descriptions

1. Vanier Medal: This award is given annually to an individual with long-term, dedicated service in the field of public administration. Nominees will have an exceptional record of remarkable achievements in a variety of different positions, having navigated and managed complex problems over a number of years. They will have made a highly significant and valuable impact on the public interest and contributed to increased confidence and trust in public administration. Nominated individuals must be able and willing to provide an insightful lecture at a future IPAC event.

2. Emerging Leader: The IPAC Award for Emerging Leaders recognizes promising new leaders in public administration who have served for five years or less in their profession, and whose work has made a significant impact to the public interest. These individuals should also reflect the ideals of public administration. They will have advanced confidence and trust in their respective field.

3. Established Leader: The IPAC Award for Established Leaders recognizes leaders in public administration who have made substantive achievements in their role over many years and whose work has made a significant impact to the public interest. These individuals should also reflect the ideals of public administration. They will have advanced confidence and trust in their respective field.

4. Innovation: The IPAC Award in Innovation recognizes an individual or organization that has produced an exceptional change or new way of doing things that addresses the public interest. This category now includes a dedicated sub-category, **Innovation with AI**, for innovations pertaining to artificial intelligence, highlighting initiatives that leverage AI to enhance public service delivery, decision-making, or operational outcomes.

5. Distinguished Service in Mental Health Promotion: The IPAC Award for Distinguished Service in Mental Health Promotion recognizes an individual or organization with an outstanding record supporting individuals or a community with creative and sustained mental health programming.