



## Shannon Firnkes, Ottawa, Ontario

Shannon is such a great hygienist. She works with homeless and precariously housed persons and shows so much compassion in her work. When I am working alongside her, I can see how comfortable her clients are with her and how much they appreciate her help. All her clients are treated with empathy and without judgement. She inspired me to get more involved in Community Health and has been a great role model for me. She is a superhero!

Shannon has worked tirelessly to provide dental care to the homeless population of Ottawa. As the administrator and dental hygienist of the Ottawa Mission dental clinic, Shannon sees over 30 patients on a weekly basis and coordinates a team of over 20 volunteer dentists and dental hygienists. She is constantly conducting outreach to meet the pressing dental needs of the homeless in the city. In addition to routine dental services, Shannon also organizes oral cancer screenings for clients once a month. This is particularly beneficial to the homeless as they are at a higher risk for chronic and terminal illnesses. She also creates and gives out dental care packages to ensure that her patients keep up with their dental hygiene. Her interactions with her patients are positive and filled with compassion. Her attitude has led to praise from both her patients and volunteers. Shannon is also passionate about her career and has always been interested in mentoring and offering support to new dental hygienists. Her passion led her to Algonquin college where she will be giving seminars, Q and A sessions as well as mentorship to students in her field. She is also currently providing mentorship to a newly graduated dental hygienist. Shannon is committed to upholding the rules and practices of her field and is dedicated to improving her expertise. She deserves this nomination because she is passionate, enthusiastic, and committed to the field of dentistry. Her work at the Ottawa Mission clinic has restored smiles and confidence to the faces of many homeless people within the Ottawa region.



**DENTAL  
HYGIENE  
CANADA.CA**