

# Canadian Security Honours 2023

For the sixth annual Canadian Security Honours, we recognize four security leaders at different stages of their careers — some just beginning and showing tremendous promise, others with an accomplished body of work.

In 2023, we acknowledge Martin Green (Lifetime Achievement Award); Hi Nguyen (Community Leader Award); Chris Anquist (Emerging Leader Award); and Joey Bourgoin (Security Director of the Year).

The 2023 winners will receive their awards at a gala luncheon

in Toronto on Oct. 17.

Featured keynote speaker at the event will be Cameron Field, a noted expert on financial crime and investigations and vice-president of the Vidocq Group. Field's address will focus on the theme of "Enemies at our gates: surviving and thriving in a chaotic decade."

For more details on attending Canadian Security Honours in October, visit [www.canadiansecuritymag.com](http://www.canadiansecuritymag.com).

— Winner profiles by Neil Sutton

## Lifetime Achievement: Martin Green

**A** young Martin Green might be surprised to find out he would carve out a long and distinguished career in health-care security.

The security part was a natural fit for Green but the sights and smells of hospital hallways took some getting used to. "I was squeamish," says Green. "The thought of me working in a hospital was terrifying."

As a student in the 1970s, he enrolled in a law enforcement college program with ambitions to join the police. Upon graduation, he shifted over to security when he took a job at Eaton's department store at the Toronto Eaton Centre.

Green found his footing there in loss prevention, but after six years confronting shoplifters, he was ready for a change.

An enigmatic newspaper ad for a senior security professional was his ticket out. He only learned at the interview that the job involved managing security guards at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Toronto.

Green took the job, uncertain that it would last long, but his aversion to hospitals was short-lived. "I acclimated to it really quickly," he says. "That



*"A hospital is a small city – security fills many functions to support that city."*

job led to a number of different jobs in health-care security and for most of the last 38 years, I've worked directly or indirectly for a hospital."

Since taking the St. Joseph's role in 1985, Green has become a familiar face on the Toronto health-care scene, working at a variety of facilities, including CAMH (then known as the Queen St. Mental Health Centre), Women's College Hospital, Rouge Valley Health System, and most recently Baycrest Health Sciences Centre.

As Green's career matured, so did his interest and involvement in the security community. He helped to develop the colour code emergency system that is

still in use today across Ontario hospitals and more broadly across the country.

A longtime member of the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS), Green became more engaged in the early 2000s after a positive networking experience. The sitting IAHSS president reached out to him for advice on how to cope with a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) case, since Toronto had experienced its own SARS outbreak in 2003.

IAHSS had a Canadian presence at the time, says Green, but it was more functionally active in Western Canada. Green helped to form an Ontario chapter through a group of health-care security professionals that was already meeting on an informal basis. It began with six members and now has more than 120. "My involvement with IAHSS lit a fire for me, and I saw the value of the association," he says.

He joined the IAHSS board as a member-at-large in 2012, and was asked to serve on several committees. Green was elected president of IAHSS in 2017 (one of a handful of Canadians to serve in that role) and was granted a lifetime membership in 2019.

Green, who has also held memberships in the Canadian Society for Industrial Security and ASIS International, preaches the value of belonging to an association. Peer networking is incredibly valuable, he says, and an almost unlimited source of information and advice. “It’s also given me some tremendous friendships over the years.”

Hospital security departments transcend their proscribed roles, says Green, often due to the fact that they tend to be uniformed and stand out against other staff who mostly wear scrubs. If a visitor or a patient has a question or a concern, a security guard is an easily identifiable guide or authority figure.

“A hospital is a small city —

security fills many functions to support that city,” says Green. “Even if nothing is going on, as a security manager or a security guard in a hospital, you’re giving that presence that everything is OK in the city today.”

Green retired from health-care security in 2023 and was ready to settle into an easier pace of life when another opportunity

came knocking. He recently accepted a role as security manager at Toronto-based property management firm Greenwin Corp. Green says he still keeps close tabs on the health-care security scene through his professional network and friendships — which is something he can’t imagine changing, semi-retired or otherwise. **ICS**

## Community Leader: **Hi Nguyen**



**H**i Nguyen had always taken an interest in police and counter-terrorism, but it was the 9/11 attacks that “pushed me off the sidelines,” he says.

He left a career as a sales rep in the software industry, walked into an RCMP recruitment office and signed up. He says he immediately clicked with the policing lifestyle and its goal-oriented culture, and graduated as an RCMP officer less than two years later.

His first posting was in Langley, B.C., as a uniformed officer, where he learned the “bread and

butter” of police work. He soon moved into more ambitious assignments, investigating drug networks and car theft rings, and was eventually transferred to Ottawa. There he joined the Prime Minister’s protective detail as a bodyguard, before transferring to an assignment protecting the Governor General.

In 2011, Nguyen achieved his dream, moving over to a role in national security and counter-terrorism. Nguyen stayed with the RCMP for another six years, and was part of high profile investigations, including the 2014 terrorist attack

on Parliament Hill.

Retiring from the RCMP in 2017, Nguyen says he had a “What now?” moment.

His solution was to take on a new challenge — something completely different from police work. He started his own business, helping children with learning disabilities. The work was fulfilling, he says, and he learned a great deal about what it takes to run a company, but he missed his old life. Nguyen sold the company after a few years and looked for a path back into investigations.

Nguyen joined the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation as an investigator for a few years before accepting his current role at the University of Ottawa as director of protection services.

“It was a huge shift for me,” says Nguyen, who immediately prioritized the transformation of the university’s security department. “I really applied everything I learned in policing, everything I learned in business, [and] all the courses I took on leadership. I’m super-proud of what the team has accomplished in the last two years.”

Nguyen can speak passionately and at length about leadership, team-building and collaboration — a result of his years in intense police environments and a personal commitment to growth and development.

Shortly after joining the University of Ottawa, he saw an opportunity to lean on his existing skills while developing new ones. In 2022, he reached out to other campus security professionals in the Ottawa area to form a “Leadership Mastermind” — a group of peers that could meet on a regular basis to problem-solve and exchange ideas. The mastermind began with six people but quickly grew to dozens across the country.

“I learned a whole ton doing this from other people, and other people learned from me. Everyone was contributing continuously. It’s been a fantastic network,” says Nguyen.

Nguyen was recognized for his leadership earlier this year by the Ontario Association of College and University Security Administrators (OACUSA) with their Award of Excellence.

Nguyen also recently re-en-