



## 2013 PHABC Awards – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

### **President's Award**

This award is given to a Public Health Association of British Columbia member who has shown commitment to enabling their community or neighbourhood, housing complex or organization address health issues. The issues range from economic security, food security, environmental sustainability, preventive health actions, ensuring involvement in decisions which affect an individual or community, to sustaining preventive actions. This award recognizes the value of members commitment to addressing issues which improve individual and community health.

### **Ted Bruce**

Ted is immediate past president of PHABC after having served four years as president.

Ted fits the criteria for this award perfectly because he has shown commitment to enabling his organization (PHABC) to address health issues.

In his work role, as Executive Director of Population Health in Vancouver Coastal Health, Ted has been able to strategically bring the discussion of health inequities to the forefront of the organization. His leadership has been instrumental for rethinking how can health authorities become active partners in addressing the broader determinants of health. He has transformed the way VCH interacts with our local government and community partners. Ted is a firm believer of approaching this work with an equity lens and a focus on capacity building. Inside an organization that is used to addressing community health problems through clinical services, Ted has been able to reframe the conversation and has led innovative strategies aimed to address the root causes of poor health. Ted's credibility among senior executive leaders comes from his ability to successfully assess and interpret complex environments, as well as his capacity to deliver concrete results. To his team, Ted is not only a well respected and entrusted leader, he is also a thoughtful and caring mentor. The influence of Ted's work has grown beyond the walls of the health authority. Through his work with researchers, academics and students, Ted has been able to influence the field of Public Health not only at the practitioner level, but has also contributed to reframing the research agenda. Ted has been at the forefront of practice-informed research in Population Health.

Ted has outstanding leadership skills in Public and Population Health together with extraordinary ability in partnership and network development as shown in his involvement in Health Officers Council, PHABC, PARC, BCPHN, Poverty Reduction Coalition, BCHLA. Ted truly walks the talk on intersectoral collaboration with his vast network of partnerships outside the health sector, but also within.

Ted is an advisory committee member for CIHR's Institute of Population and Public Health, bringing a knowledge user perspective to the work of that agency. He has been an active member of the CPHFRI in BC, and remains on the REPHS and ELPH research projects.

## **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award of Merit Significant contribution to Public Health**

The Merit Award is given to a community member or organization which are not members of the Public Health Association of British Columbia, but who have made significant contributions to enhance the health of their community. They may have been involved in work which has improved the housing standards in supported low cost housing, shown leadership in assisting non-profit agencies address social or economic issues or in investing in community programs. This award is to profile and recognize individuals and organizations whose contribution to the community is vital in achieving improved health for all.

### **Clyde Hertzman**

Dr. Clyde Hertzman was Canada's foremost scientist in population health and human development. Over the past fifteen years, Dr. Hertzman's work shaped revolutionary advancements in our understanding of the determinants of health, well-being and competence throughout the life course.

Clyde was a Professor in the School of Population and Public Health, and the director of the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), both at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Population Health and Human Development.

Clyde began HELP at UBC in 2002. Over the last decade HELP developed "real-time" data systems to describe the developmental and intellectual status of each birth cohort of children entering school throughout British Columbia. Working closely with community groups, school boards, parents, teachers, and education policy experts, Clyde turned his extraordinary intellectual energy to the vexing and perennial educational problem of "under-achievement" in a large fraction of our population, with its lifelong effects on health, function and workforce productivity. The Early Developmental Instrument (EDI), developed through a pan-Canadian collaboration in which Clyde played a leading role, is a well-validated tool that is now in use not only in Canada but in 14 countries around the world. It has been adopted by the Government of B.C. for setting service targets, and is seen as a critically important source of information that guides resource flows and policy development designed to improve young children's chances for educational success.

Clyde was committed to turning research into action and made countless visits to communities throughout B.C. for presentations and working sessions to assist stakeholders to interpret their local results and plan for making improvements. In addition, he met regularly with all B.C. ministries involved with children, in an effort to help those ministries develop or tweak policy intended to provide the best possible start in life for all children in the province. As a result, HELP has documented hundreds of community and provincial initiatives in BC that have derived, in whole or in part, from the EDI and HELP's knowledge translation activities. These initiatives range from the creation of outreach programs from local public libraries to the implementation of full-day kindergarten across the whole province.

The roots of Clyde's work have been in B.C. but he also had a significant international presence. Clyde and his group were appointed in 2005 as leaders of the Global

Knowledge Hub for Early Child Development for the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and in more recent years he developed and piloted a tool to monitor adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Clyde's vision, energy, and tireless pursuit of research-related goals changed our province. He literally put the importance of early childhood "on the map" and altered profoundly the culture of childhood policy and programming both locally and provincially.

### **Sharon Martin Award for Community Development**

The Sharon Martin Community Development Award was created by the Board in November, 1999 as a memorial to Sharon Martin, a President of PHABC, a visionary and staunch advocate for public and community health at the community, provincial and national levels.

The award recognizes a member or non-member of PHABC who has contributed significantly to community development by:

- Supporting community capacity
- Advocating for social justice
- Mentoring others in the promotion of the public's health
- Promoting the involvement of community members in public health programs

### **Raffi Cavoukian**

Raffi is a passionate advocate for "social justice", particularly in relation to the "rights of children". In 1997, he was inspired to develop a holistic philosophy called [Child Honouring](#). The heart of this vision was expressed two years later in [A Covenant for Honouring Children](#) (a poetic declaration of our duty to the young), along with its nine principles. The Covenant and Principles are now circulated widely in public health and education circles. The philosophy is outlined in the book [Child Honouring: How To Turn This World Around](#) (edited by Raffi Cavoukian & Sharna Olfman, 2006). With a foreword by the Dalai Lama, this anthology is a groundbreaking work which provides the reader with an exciting, positive vision of how to "turn this world around, for the children". To express Child Honouring themes musically, Raffi wrote and produced two CDs for adults: *Resisto Dancing* (2006) and *Communion* (2009). His anthemic songs "Turn This World Around" and "No Wall Too Tall" have found their way into the keynote presentations of progressive thinkers. After years of networking and reflecting on what it might take to create a world fit for children, in 2010, Raffi founded the Centre for Child Honouring on Salt Spring Island. The Centre advocates for an ecological worldview, a whole systems shift in the way we think and make decisions – decisions that affect our children's world today and the world they will inherit. He is outspoken in his call for a "compassion revolution" so the world's children might receive the respect and support they deserve. Most recently, Raffi has published a book entitled *Lightweb Darkweb* that promotes the "digital rights of children" to use social media and the internet in safety. His philosophy and principles have inspired individuals and communities in Canada and around the world to look at children through a social justice lens and supports efforts to "build community capacity" to meaningfully address the rights of children and to address ecological issues.

Raffi has also been a “mentor” to others to promote the health of the public. For example, he was an inspiration and mentor to Dr. Budd Hall who preceded me as the Executive Director of the Canadian Council on Learning’s Health and Learning Knowledge Centre at the University of Victoria. Moreover, he donated his time to provide an inspirational keynote address at the Conference that opened the Centre at the University of Victoria and I know that his words of wisdom guided the work of the Centre during its five year existence. I also know that he was an inspiration for Dr. Clyde Hertzman in his work on Early Childhood Development as well as a collaborator. For this reason, he also waived his normal fee to speak at the Community Event honouring Dr. Hertzman’s memory and lifetime work associated with our Conference this year and without a doubt will not only inspire the community members that attend, but also the members of the public health community to look at children through a social justice lens.

### **Phyllis M. Baird Memorial Award for Public Health Nursing**

The Baird Award is given to a Community Health Nurse practicing in a rural area of BC who:

- demonstrates excellence in practice
- is employed in a BC health authority
- wishes to pursue a short or long term course relative to her/his field of interest

The recipient should exhibit some or all of the following:

- an excellent understanding of and keen interest in public health nursing
- leadership skills
- pride in doing an excellent job
- activity/interest in professional and/or community organizations, i.e. CRNBC, ARNBC, PHABC, CPHA, Community Health Nurses of Canada etc.
- eager to increase knowledge, keeps up to date by reading, extramural studies, attending workshops etc.
- demonstrates a tactful, discrete, courteous, poised manner
- able to maintain confidentiality
- exemplifies integrity, warmth, understanding, and compassion
- has a positive outlook and contributes to good morale
- excellent communication skills
- ethical - avoids or withdraws from conflict of interest situations

This award was endowed by Margaret Wilson and Ian Baird, children of Phyllis Baird, who was a public health nurse in the Victoria area and who maintained a keen interest in this area of nursing throughout her life. The Public Health Association was asked to administer the funds and to seek recipients for the award.

### **Mary Hill**

Mary Hill worked for 10 years in front line public health nursing in Prince George, serving both rural and urban communities. She did the usual things that a PHN would do - she taught prenatal classes, worked with pregnant teens, provided postpartum home visits, immunizations, STI and birth control services. It is, however, he

commitment to excellence in practice and to serving the needs of those with whom she works that makes Mary stand head and shoulders above others. She moved into a supervisory role as Manager of Child Youth and Family Services in VIHA, which she did for 25 years before her retirement this year. Over this period she supervised and managed public health nursing programs as well as hospital based maternity and pediatric services, parent and child support services, administrative support, speech pathology, audiology, nutrition, and dental services in the community as well as a number of community contracts. She was responsible for as many as 60 staff members, and managed budgets as high as six million dollars. Staff members and students alike speak about her quite strength, her commitment to excellence in practice, her strong desire to continually improve practice and to make a difference in the lives of the people she serves. Mary Hill meets all the criteria for this award and is a very deserving recipient.

### **PHABC 60th Anniversary Awards Significant Contributions to Public Health Practice**

This year, 2013, is the 60th anniversary of the Public Health Association of British Columbia. In honour of this historic occasion, PHABC will be making up to six awards to nominees who have made a significant contribution to public health in British Columbia. By public health we mean “the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals.” We encourage nominations of practitioners across the traditional public health disciplines (e.g., medicine; nursing; nutrition/dieticians; environmental health (EHOs); speech, language, and audiology; dental public health; health promotion/community development) as well as other practitioners who also make important contributions to public health.

- Anyone or any organization can nominate someone for this award; the nominator does not have to be a PHABC member
- The nominee should have been directly involved in practice over a sufficient period of time to have made important contributions to practice in that discipline and to public health in general, in BC.
- The nominator should submit a letter of nomination providing:
  - the person’s name and contact information,
  - role or position(s) currently or previously held in the public health system in BC (if applicable),
  - a description of the nominee’s contributions to public health and why these are significant, particularly in relation to achieving the two major aims of public health – improving the health of the population and promoting health equity.

## **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary significant contribution to PH:**

### **Sharron Higgins - Nursing**

Sharon Higgins jump started the health promoting schools movement in the Capital Regional District and in British Columbia. With a strong career as a public health nurse attended a health promotion workshop on the nature of inclusive process, engagement, and community development. Sharon left meeting and radically altered her practice as a result. Her focus on prevention was strengthened and the way forward was health promoting schools. Sharon took a position with the School District and worked collaboratively to foster comprehensive school health within a health promotion paradigm. Sharon's leadership helped to infuse this approach in multiple school districts. As a pioneer and strategist and healer it is important to recognize Sharon's efforts in changing public health practice and expanding the role of public health nurses further into healthy public policy and in particular in education.

### **Joan Geber - Nursing**

Joan is a public health nurse, who has taken a leadership role in critical public health issues in BC. Joan helped to chair the development of a model core program for the Prevention of Violence, Abuse and Neglect in BC. This core program represents a landmark achievement in making violence prevention a basic part of public health practice. The model program included work with a wide range of stakeholders concerned with the safety of children and youth, elders and intimate partners. Joan has helped to ensure that women's health issues and their vulnerabilities particularly during pre and post natal periods are better understood and protected. Joan has led the province forward with effective leadership and skilled analysis. Public Health practice is strengthened by Joan's efforts and those of the teams she has been able to engage with.

### **Shirley Bassett -Dental hygienist**

Shirley Bassett has long been a leader in dental hygiene. Shirley worked for a number of years in the community health offices of the capital regional district and health authority. In her role Shirley focused on preventive screening for oral health and took a strong health promotion focus in her work. Shirley was pivotal in the establishment of a Dental health program at Camosun College and always ensured that health promotion was featured as a critical strategy in dental health training. As a leader and innovator Shirley has helped to train and educate dental health professionals in preventive treatment protocols and in health promotion. Her population health lens has helped to ensure that students understand the determinants of health and how health promotion can better serve their practice in the achievement of improved population health outcomes.

### **Dr. Patricia Wolczuk – Nutritionist**

Pat holds a Doctorate and is a Nutritionist by training. As a progressive leader and thinker it is hard to imagine a stronger candidate. Dr. Wolczuk set up the first Office of Health Promotion in BC and was responsible along with her team for establishing the first Healthy Communities network in BC with Susan Stovel and Val Tregillus. Pat provided an atmosphere that fostered creativity, innovation and community inclusion. Pat helped to nurture health promoting schools with the able assistance of Dr. Sharon Bearpark, and healthy workplaces with Dr. Gord Miller and Peter and Carol Harper. Pat

and her team produced tools and resources designed to foster and engage community participation. Pat's visionary approach made British Columbia a leader both nationally and internationally. Pat's focus on prevention helped to challenge the fiscal status quo and demonstrate that citizens can be proactive and strategic in the achievement of population health goals.

### **Irv Rootman- Health Literacy**

Irv has been a stalwart member of the Public Health Association of BC for the last dozen years and has served in a number of roles, from Vice President, to chair of the Capacity Building Committee.

From the beginning of his time in BC he has worked tirelessly to promote and grow PHABC. His leadership on health literacy has given birth to a Canadian movement tying literacy to health equity. Irv is always mentoring and supporting the work of others and no one is more generous in their support and constancy. Irv began with a focus on reestablishing the PHABC conference as one with high standards for content and relevancy. This was followed by the creation of the summer school an annual professional development course for public health providers.

Irv drew attention to the "new schools of public health" and brought the BC Deans together to hear from participants on their needs and to clarify the vision and mandate of each of the schools. This was a most useful discourse and we have grown in our relationship with each of the schools as a result of this.

And one cannot talk about Irv the activist and health promoter without acknowledging Irv the person. A man with a wry sense of humour, who always acknowledges the strength and passion of his peers and juniors. For Irv it is always family first and somehow he manages to do so much more. He is a most beloved soul and we have been deeply blessed to know him and to benefit for his amazing decency and strength of vision and character.

### **Dr. John Millar- Prevention and promotion toward the reduction of health inequities**

Dr. Millar has a long history of contributing to public health in British Columbia and indeed in Canada.

He has held numerous senior opportunities within the public health sector including those of Provincial Health Officer for BC (1993-1998) during which time he spearheaded the development of health goals for BC; the Executive Director of Population Health for the Provincial Health Services Authority (2003-2012) where he lead actions on important public health issues as diverse as health inequities, obesity reduction; and developed health system indicators as a Senior Executive for Research & Population Health for the Canadian Institute for Health Information (1998-2003).

Dr. Millar also contributed academically as a clinical professor in SPPH (UBC) and has over 30 refereed papers and book chapters. He has been actively engaged in the communities provincially and nationally throughout his career - as a board member of the Public Health Association of BC (and an honorary life member), First Call

Coordinating Committee, Canadian Patient Safety Institute and the Canadian Public Health Association.

Dr. Millar has been recognized for his significant commitment and contribution to public health as a recipient of the DeFries Award from the CPHA and honorary life member, and was a previous James M Robinson Memorial Award in 1991. Dr. Millar following retirement, has continued to demonstrate his passion and dedication in the field by working tirelessly to lead enhanced collaboration between public health and the primary care sector.