

President's Award

The President's Award is given to a member of the Public Health Association of British Columbia who has shown a commitment to enabling their community, neighbourhood, housing complex or organization to address health issues. The issues include economic security, food security, environmental sustainability, preventive health actions, and ensuring involvement in decisions by those affected.

Brian O'Connor

Dr. O'Connor has served as the Medical Health Officer for the North Shore communities for numerous years. In this role he has provided leadership to public health and population health staff in the provision of services to improve the health of North Shore residents. He has been an outspoken advocate for community health throughout his career. Brian has worked closely with municipal governments on the North Shore to introduce healthy public policies such as smoking bylaws. As importantly he has educated policy makers, municipal leaders and the community at large on the social determinants of health. He has brought about concrete changes affecting the health of the most vulnerable as evidenced in the implementation of a homelessness shelter on the North Shore. He has worked to create institutional responses across sectors and levels of government and led the development of the North Shore Congress – a forum that brings together political leaders from all levels to plan ways to improve the health of their communities. He has been a leader within the public health community in BC to raise awareness of population health strategies and has championed this cause provincially and across Vancouver Coastal Health. His professional achievements are many but he is the face and heart of public health on the North Shore.

The Award of Merit

The Award of Merit is given to a community member who does not belong to the PHABC but who has contributed significantly to enhancing the health of their community. They may have been involved in a variety of areas that impacted in some way the broader determinants of health. Perhaps it was providing support for low cost housing, improving the food supply for low-income areas, supporting programs for children and youth, or supporting healthy lifestyles in general.

The BC Healthy Living Alliance

The Alliance is made of a nine provincial organizations and a network of government and non-profit organizations with the intention of advocating for health improvements for British Columbians. It undertook perhaps the largest health promotion campaign in BC history awarding over \$25 million dollars to complement the government's Act Now program. Perhaps most impressively, the Alliance developed a detailed policy plan to address the social determinants of health and has been active in advocating for the implementation of these policies. The report provides a foundation for public health advocacy for years to come. By drawing on leaders from across the organizations

involved, the Alliance has created a powerful and credible voice that contributes to the dialogue on improving health in BC.

Phyllis M. Baird Memorial Award

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 provincial health unit
- 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. RNABC, PHABC, CPHA, Community Health Nurses Interest Group, 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

Sooke BC nurses: Mary Dunn, Kirsten Hull and Donna Warrender

This public health nursing team works to ensure that a comprehensive package of quality public health programming for children and their families is available in their communities including the Sooke community as well as three first nations' communities. This team responds to and accommodates community needs especially high risk populations. In addition to working with individuals and families, this team is involved in an interagency mechanism which has been set up to ensure optimum early child development services. They focus on community capacity building as evidenced in their work with the Participation in the Community Health Initiative which is a partnership of community members, health and social service providers from East Sooke to Port Renfrew working to address access issues such as lack of transportation and food security.

Team Members Individual strengths include:

Mary Dunn:

- Has worked for 12 years as a public health nurse who started and facilitates a young parents' group in Sooke.

- Is a member of the Sooke Community Health Initiative and is presently participating in a research project under the guidance of Dr. M. McDonald from the University of Victoria.
- Co- facilitates a weekly Post Depression Support group.
- Volunteers her time to the Shirley and Sooke community as a member of the Emergency Preparedness committee.
- Is a member of the South Vancouver Island Health Equity discussion group.

Donna Warrender:

- Worked for 6 years as a public health nurse with a local first nation community during which time she worked with grandmothers and young families to significantly decrease rates of FAS, decrease smoking during pregnancy, increase the breastfeeding rates to 100% over a 3 years period, shifted the immunization rates to 100%, and created a process for discussing cultural practices and health promotion strategies with the community.
- Is a Breastfeeding councilor.
- Is a Post Partum Depression group co-facilitator.
- Is a member of the South Vancouver Island Health Equity discussion group.
- Attended PHABC Summer School and is a long standing PHABC member.

Kirsten Hull:

- In addition to regular duties, she has worked for 12 years as a public health nurse with an isolated first nation community during which time she has supported the health of the community by providing culturally sensitive parent education and support as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Started a Baby Talk parent discussion group which continues to be very popular with new mothers and their babies.
- Initiated a Public Health Aboriginal Working Group to support staff working in First Nations' communities resulting in enhanced cultural understanding and lobbying mechanisms for appropriate community services .
- Lobbied for public health dental services in an isolated first nation community resulting in a fluoride varnish program and dental age appropriate goodie bags given at immunization appointments.

Sharon Martin Community Development Award

The Sharon Martin Community Development Award was created in November 1999 as a memoriam to Sharon Martin, a visionary and staunch advocate for public and community health at national, provincial and community 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.

Cindy Anderson

Cindy recently retired from her managerial post with Vancouver Island Health Authority. Her commitment and passion have been the trademark of her long and distinguished service to the people of Vancouver Island. Cindy brought an incredible energy to her work. She was at the forefront of a number of public health developments from Health promoting schools, the core programs review, to shifts in public health nursing practice. During her career, Cindy directed a range of public health professionals including speech/language pathologists, nutritionists, dental hygienist, audiologists, nurses, and even emergency management personnel. In her capacity as a leader throughout her career she strove to bring standards for best practice forward, to innovate and make more efficient use of often scarce public health resources. She introduced new public health programs, like vision screening and worked incredibly hard to ensure that the mandate, mission, and scope of the program or service required was understood and evaluated. During the last three years Cindy has served as the Core Programs Coordinator for Vancouver Island Health Authority. In this role Cindy was responsible for ensuring that each of the twenty one core programs under review was understood by VIHA staff delivering the program and that a thorough inventory of service strengths and gaps were conducted as part of a program assessment. Cindy worked hard to ensure that staff participated fully in the process and were an integral part of service planning

Aside from all of these gifts Cindy provided a grounded and practical voice to HINI planning process in VIHA. She also served on the provincial public health leadership council for a number of years. Cindy has been a faithful member of the Public Health Association of BC working to advocate for public health infrastructure and investment.

Lifetime PHABC member

John Millar

John was born in Vancouver and received his medical degree from the University of British Columbia. After graduating, he went on to gain a wealth of international health experience, including two years with the Zambian Flying Doctor Service! After a 15-year career in clinical medicine, surgery, health policy and administration in the developing world he returned to Canada where he specialized in population and public health.

John's impact is largely due to his innovative ideas and his credibility across Canada, which has resulted in him being able to influence thinking and policy, including chairing

the BC Obesity Reduction Task Force, and the National Advisory Committee for the National Collaborating Centre for the Determinants of Health.

Many of you will likely remember John in his role as Provincial Medical Health Officer or from his most recent contributions in BC as the Executive Director, Population Health Surveillance for the Provincial Health Services Authority. In these roles, John worked in close collaboration with health authorities, government and other provincial stakeholders, providing leadership and technical expertise in developing strategies for health surveillance, and identifying population health trends and opportunities for enhancing chronic disease prevention and management.

John also made an outstanding contribution to communities in BC. As a member of the Coordinating Committee of the BC Healthy Living Alliance, he was on the forefront in bringing issues with respect to social determinants and health equity onto the provincial agenda. He also initiated broader dialogues with other sectors in the community to build awareness and support on how we could more successfully deal with issues of reducing poverty and improving employment and housing.