

# PHABC Awards Recipients



Public Health  
Association of BC



## **PHABC Annual Awards**

The Public Health Association of BC hosts our annual Awards Ceremony at our Annual General Meeting and Conference. The Awards Ceremony allows public health professionals to recognize and appreciate individuals and organizations in our community, whose commitment to public health exceed all expectations.

Do you know someone in the public health community whose hard work and dedication deserves recognition? Please consider nominating them for a PHABC award. We accept nominations year-round for outstanding individuals and organizations.

**Learn more: <https://phabc.org/about-us/awards/>**

## Dr. Theresa Healy



### President's Award

The President's Award is given by the sitting President of PHABC to an invaluable member. The candidate must show commitment to enabling their community, neighbourhood, housing complex or organization to address health issues.

The issue can include: economic security; food security; environmental sustainability; and preventative health actions. Those affected by the issue must be involved in the decision-making process.

#### **Award Recipient: Dr. Theresa Healy for outstanding service and capacity building for public health.**

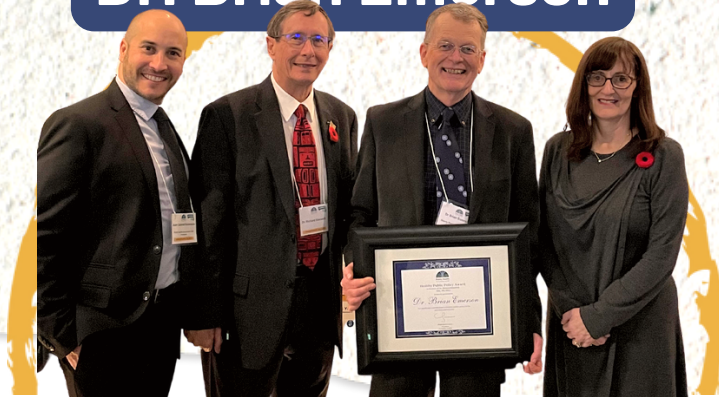
This year, President Juan Solorzano awarded Dr. Theresa Healy with the President's Award. Dr. Healy has been a long-standing member of PHABC. Throughout her membership, she's demonstrated outstanding commitment and knowledge regarding the need for collaborative effort to achieve public health advancements.

Dr. Healy actively served as PHABC's Vice President and is currently the Co-chair of the Capacity Building Committee. Her sensitivities and focus on inequities have strengthened PHABC's equity approach and actions.

Dr. Healy led PHABC's partnership with ChatterHigh, a digital platform that educates secondary students to a variety of career and post-secondary options. Her leadership in youth exposure to public health career opportunities serves to benefit the future of the public health sector and population health.

Dr. Healy is also a leader in graphic facilitation, which is an invaluable engagement process. She has actively taught and supported Indigenous youth to develop this skill. Their participation in PHABC events is a demonstrable commitment to reconciliation.

Dr. Theresa Healy is committed to enabling the community to address underlying and complex public health issues. For all the reasons outlined above, Theresa is the ideal recipient of the President's Award!



## **Healthy Public Policy Award in Honour of Dr. Richard Stanwick Award (BSc, MD, MSc)**

The Dr. Richard Stanwick Award was created in 2022 to honour his contributions to healthy public policy in the province and the country. Dr. Stanwick received the Devries Award, the highest honour in public health. He also was recognized by the Canadian Public Health Association with an Honorary Life Membership for his contributions to Public Health. Dr. Stanwick also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the BC Injury Prevention Leadership Action Network.

Prior to his work at Island Health, Dr. Stanwick also took on the role as the Assistance Provincial Epidemiologist for the Province of Manitoba from 1985 to 1990, and the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Winnipeg from 1990 to 1995. He became the Medical Health Officer for the Capital Regional District in British Columbia in 1995, then Chief Medical health Officer for the Island in 2001.

Dr. Stanwick dedicated over 25 years of service to the residents in the Island Health region and served as Island Health's Vice-President, Population Health and Chief Medical Officer before retiring. He played a key role in keeping the community safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and overdose crisis. He was also the Chair of the Canadian Paediatric Society in 2013.

He influenced major policy contributions to tobacco legislation, bicycle helmets, and the use of sunbeds for minors. Each of these local level policy changes have impacted national healthy public policy. Dr. Stanwick also pushed for clean air and clean drinking-water laws, supervised injection sites and humane treatment for those living with eating disorders. The award recognizes an individual or team responsible for significant contributions to healthy public policy in the province.

**Award Recipient: Dr. Brian Emerson for significant contributions to healthy public policy in the province and beyond.**

Dr. Brian Emerson was appointed Deputy Provincial Health Officer in 2018. Prior to joining government in 2003 as public health medical consultant Brian had been a medical health officer in several regions in BC.

Brian worked as a marine biologist subsequent to graduating from University of Victoria before obtaining a medical degree and master's degree in public health from the University of BC.

One of Brian's initial major projects was to coordinate the development implementation of a new Public Health Act and regulations for BC, which was passed in 2009, for which he was awarded the Provincial Health Officer award for excellence in public health. He continues to be very involved in public health legislation development and implementation.

Brian is involved at the provincial and national levels in the response to the opioids overdose death epidemic and represents the Ministry of Health and Office of the PHO in cross BC government work and in national discussions on cannabis legalization.

Brian edited the development of several papers detailing public health perspectives on regulating alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for the Health Officers Council of BC, and co-chaired development of a position paper for the Canadian Public Health Association on a public health approach to illegal psychoactive substances.

Brian has published papers on public health-oriented regulation of cannabis, psychedelics and opioids and was part of the expert working group advising the Global Commission on Drug Policy on their recent paper "Regulation: The Responsible Control of Drugs".

Brian was the recipient of the George Elliot award for lifetime contributions to public health in British Columbia in 2018.





## **Scholar in Residence Award in Honour of Dr. Lorna Medd (BSc, BSc Med, MD, FRCPS)**

The Dr. Lorna Medd Scholar in Residence Award was created in 2022 as a celebration of the research rigour for public health and community wellbeing (e.g. food security, communicable diseases, climate action, healthy communities etc.) at provincial and community levels.

Lorna was a physician who pursued specialized training in community medicine in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. During Lorna's 30-year tenure as a Medical Health Officer in BC, she brought an eco-centric lens and a community development approach that led to innovative and transformative programs acknowledged and replicated across Canada and beyond.

Lorna is described by her colleagues as a visionary, an inspirational leader, and a beloved mentor. She identified, sought out, and fueled the flame within many aspiring public health leaders furthering research, programs and policy addressing the social determinants of health.

The award recognizes a member or non-member of PHABC who is a graduate student that has contributed significantly to helping achieve PHABC mission and vision by:

- Supporting PHABC through program-specific research;
- Creating research that advances PHABC's mission and vision;
- Developing novel community-based research and tools;
- Promoting knowledge translation and community participation.

**Award Recipient: Colin Dring for supporting equitable and inclusive change across local food systems in British Columbia.**

Colin has directly worked with PHABC on several community-based research and advocacy projects. He brings his extensive scholarly knowledge and helps PHABC apply it to real-world problems. In 2020, he worked with PHABC to help drive the integration of long-term, social, health, economic, and environmental outcomes into an exploration of municipal agricultural policies across three municipalities in BC.

In addition, Colin made himself available to support both PHABC and community members, in each of the municipalities, in the analysis, review and creation of knowledge pieces in an overarching provincial comparison report. PHABC has been able to take this report and use it to advocate to the provincial government to garner buy-in for coordinated effort to support local governments in agriculture and food systems planning.

Colin is well-versed in knowledge translation and community-based research. He applies unique and vitally important equity and social justice lens to his work. Colin's Ph.D. research, and collaborations with PHABC and our partners, have allowed PHABC to begin to develop an agricultural policy and programming evaluation framework which centers on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

This type of extensive research evaluation process is novel and would not be possible without the practical knowledge Colin brings from his community non-profit experience in food insecurity and community development.

PHABC and the Province and British Columbia continues to benefit from Colin's research into agricultural and food systems planning and its relationship with social justice. This field of research has begun to fill a key gap in practitioners' efforts to strengthen food systems through food justice and food sovereignty in British Columbia.

While Colin excels in research and scholarship, he also is trusted in community with a demonstrated commitment to relationship building and reciprocity. He has worked for local non-profits and multiple levels of government and is considered a leader in the food systems and BIPOC communities in BC. He consistently shows up to meetings, events, workshops, and listens, and provides insights, and tools for community actors to address the complex challenges within their contexts.



Colin embodies the important role that academia can and should play in community empowerment and systems change. In our collaborations, he takes great care in holding space where our respective strengths can be leveraged which challenges the traditional hierarchical interaction between academics and community partners. Colin has always made it a priority that community members and the general public are on equal footing in his facilitation and participatory research approaches.



## Healthy Corporate Citizen Award

PHABC recognizes that corporations affect our health through their increasing dominance in the social, political and economic life of our communities.

The Healthy Corporate Citizen Award is intended to raise awareness of the role the corporate sector plays in public health, and to encourage corporations to provide leadership in improving health.

The award is intended for a corporation, financial institution or producer/worker cooperative that demonstrates a broad and comprehensive commitment to promoting health through a range of policies, products/services and practices.

The award meant to recognize a brand's broad commitment to addressing the determinants of health, such as paying a living wage or refusing to market unhealthy food.

**Award Recipient: BUNYAAD Public Affairs for committing to health promotion efforts, especially in the area of substance abuse.**

BUNYAAD Public Affairs (BUNYAAD) is an example of how corporations can get actively and passionately involved in shaping society through their increasing dominance in the social, political and economic life of our communities.

This organization understands and has internalized the essence of their responsibility and impact they can have on our health in both direct and indirect ways.

BUNYAAD Public Affairs is a boutique strategic communication and public affairs firm that is majority Indigenous-owned, IBPOC-identifying, operating in North Vancouver on unceded Coast Salish Territory. Principals Ash Amlani and Sherri Moore-Arbour co-founded BUNYAAD following decades of work in public health, strategic communication and public affairs.

The BUNYAAD team has experience working on prevention and health promotion efforts, particularly in the area of substance use. They bring expertise in knowledge translation and mobilization; stakeholder relations and engagement; best practice development; research and evaluation, policy analysis, system change and strategic communication.

BUNYAAD Principals have worked at senior levels within the provincial and federal governments, provided strategic and policy advice to bureaucratic leaders and elected officials, ranging from federal and provincial Cabinet Ministers to local governments.

They have worked closely with senior leaders at BC K–12 education partner associations, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), and the five regional health authorities. Their recent clients include Indigenous governments, BC Ministry of Health, City of Vancouver, PHSA Provincial Language Service, Kelty Centre for Mental Health, Canadian School Board Association and the BC Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to the above, BUNYAAD is extremely focussed on their corporate and personal commitment to Inclusion and cultural humility. They have worked extensively with vulnerable populations to address the systemic inequities they experience.

“Nothing About Us Without Us” captures the central principle they follow in promoting health and well-being. At BUNYAAD, they treat each interaction with clients and communities as an opportunity to co-develop shared understanding. Cultural humility includes values that are supported by behaviours as individuals and a team more broadly.

When BUNYAAD practices cultural humility, they place themselves as the humble learner. Their processes are built to co-develop and test understanding and achieve consensus whenever possible. They work to actively identify and address barriers to understanding – both articulated and unarticulated.





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