Maja Kolar
Alumni Recognition Award

As the first Registered Psychiatric Nurse to graduate from UBC's MSN program, Maja brought both lived clinical insight and deep academic knowledge to their role as Director of Legislative Initiatives at Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care. Maja led the development of a regional education team and associated regional tools that have transformed practice: from supporting via advocacy for the digitization of Mental Health Act forms in the Health Authorities Electronic Medical Record, to creating over 40 policies and resources, including a Ministry-approved course now used by many of the Health Authorities across the province.

Thanks to Maja's leadership, compliance rates soared, patient rights are more consistently upheld, and Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care met all 15 Health Authority directed recommendations from the Ombudsperson's report within a two-year project timeline – an achievement that has positioned Maja as a province-wide nursing leader. Their work has shaped the provincial Mental Health Act standards and auditing processes, contributed to more accessible and accountable documentation, and ensured that legal adherence is grounded in respect, dignity, and compassion.

Maja is a problem-solver, a collaborator, and above all, a fierce advocate for people receiving care. We proudly award Maja Kolar the Alumni Recognition Award for their tireless commitment to justice and excellence in nursing leadership.