

## Patricia Porterfield, MSN 1981

### Alumni Recognition Award 2017

As a clinical nurse specialist in palliative care at **Vancouver General Hospital**, Pat has been a mentor to countless young nurses, teaching them the reciprocal relationship between theory, research, and clinical practice in palliative care.

As a clinical nurse Pat facilitates exceptional care through communication. She has been known to bring the whole care team together to address issues respectfully, placing the patient at the centre of care to provide the best treatment possible. It is not surprising that Pat has been recognized for her professionalism through previous awards from the **College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia**, the **BC Hospice Palliative Care Association**, the **Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association** and Vancouver General Hospital.

She has held significant leadership roles through both the BC and Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Associations, including President of the Board and Board Member, respectively. She has also played a key role in the development of the **Canadian Nurses Association** specialty examinations for certification in palliative care in Canada, and remains a sought-after consultant for her expertise in the development of nurse competencies.

Pat has a questioning mind, a critical eye and an openness to learning about different perspectives, which has served her well as a researcher. Pat's progressive thinking has been instrumental in the movement to apply a palliative approach to the care of people further upstream in the illness trajectory, not just those close to death. Although retired, Pat, a lifelong learner, remains actively involved with the **iPanel** initiative to apply the palliative approach to the care of those with advancing life-limiting chronic illness. She also maintains an interest in the burgeoning new practice of advance care planning (ACP), in which she has developed a degree of knowledge and leadership that places her among the experts in the field provincially; she is currently involved with ACP public education initiatives with the **BC Centre for Palliative Care**.

With no sign of slowing down, Pat continues to work tirelessly to promote the health of an aging population and those who care for them. We are genuinely pleased to be able to call Patricia Porterfield "one of ours."



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Nursing