



Canadian Mental  
Health Association  
British Columbia  
Mental health for all

# Dr. Nancy Hall Public Policy Leadership Award

## 2016 Nomination form

### About the Award

The Public Policy Leadership Award honours the spirit of the late Dr. Nancy Hall, whose first Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) volunteer appointment was on the Public Policy Committee. Nancy acted as a key advisor, consultant, and friend to CMHA BC Division for more than 15 years and was also the BC government's Mental Health Advocate from 1998–2001. Nancy was a passionate advocate for building healthier, more inclusive communities.

The award honours her legacy and recognizes an individual or group in BC that has influenced mental health and addictions policy and contributed to positive mental health.

The award recipient will be honoured at the Association's inaugural *B4Stage4: Changing the way we think about mental health and addictions* public policy conference in Victoria, BC at the end of November. In addition, a \$500 gift will be designated for the recipient's charity of choice.

### Past Winners

**2015:** Dr. Ron Remick (Leadership Award) and Project Link (Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Coastal Health, Providence Health Care) (Award of Merit)

**2014:** Moms Like Us

**2013:** BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (Award of Distinction) and From Grief to Action (Award of Merit)

### Selection Criteria

1. Policy change should enhance the quality of life and well-being of people living with a mental illness, substance use problem and/or addictive disorder, and/or have a direct positive impact on increasing a population's mental health.
2. Impacts on mental health policy may happen on a local community, municipal, regional or provincial level. Policy reform may include a systematic or structural change or a shift in program and practice.
3. People with lived experience of a mental illness, substance use problem and/or addictive disorder should be involved in the process of influencing policy change.

**2012:** Paola Ardiles (Award of Distinction), Stephen Smith and The British Columbia Medical Association (Awards of Merit)

**2011:** Michael Schratte

Deadline for accepting nominations: **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, 5pm PST**

For each nomination, be sure to include the following:

- Nomination form completed in full
- A statement of merit (an outline of achievements and their impact)—following selection criteria
- Additional supporting information (e.g., letter of commendation, media or other recognition of achievement)

Send the complete nomination package to CMHA BC by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, 5pm PST. Mail, fax, or email the complete package to:

**Attn: Miki Talebi, Manager, Public Policy**  
**Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division**  
905-1130 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A4  
Canada

**phone** 604-688-3234  
1-800-555-8222 (toll free in BC)  
**fax** 604-688-3236  
**email** nancyhallaward@cmha.bc.ca



## About Dr. Nancy Hall

Dr. Nancy Hall was a passionate advocate for people living with mental illness, listening intently, and giving voice to people's real experiences. She was also informed by her additional perspectives of researcher and of family member of a person with mental illness.

In 1998, Nancy became BC's first government-appointed Mental Health Advocate, a unique and historic role that helped bring important profile and attention to the challenges faced by people with mental illness in this province. Nancy wrote two groundbreaking reports based on the thousands of stories brought forward to the Advocate's office. *Growing the Problem* and *Pump up the Volume* were urgent calls to action to improve the mental health system. Although the Mental Health Advocate position was eliminated in 2001, Nancy had such credibility that she continued to be called up by the media over the next decade.

Nancy brought extensive academic knowledge to her advocacy toolbox as well. She held a PhD in medical sciences from McMaster University and taught at Dalhousie, the University of BC, and Simon Fraser University in the areas of public health, health promotion and communication. For her longtime contribution to the field of public health, she received the BC Public Health Association's President's Award in 2009.

From 2004 to 2010, Nancy was involved with Simon Fraser University's Future Dialogue: Imagine BC, a dialogue discussing the future of the province. As part of her proposal to British Columbians, Nancy insisted that recovery from mental illness was possible if people were provided with more mental health supports at the community level. Her vision was in sync with that of CMHA's founder, Clarence Hincks: the ideal mental health system would walk beside people and lift them up.

Indeed, for over a decade, Nancy brought her knowledge and passion to countless projects with CMHA BC, always acting as a voice for people living with mental illness. In 2008, on behalf of CMHA BC, Nancy co-wrote a submission to the Braidwood Inquiry into the death of Robert Dziekanski and the use of conducted energy weapons. Nancy testified to the need for better police training in the area of mental health crises, pointing out that police needed to spend more time listening to and talking with people in distress before resorting to weapons or physical force. Nancy was also an integral part of the development of the Healthy Minds/Healthy Campuses community of practice. This CMHA BC-led project gathered mental health counselors, students



and administrators to work to support better mental health and substance use outcomes for students at post-secondary institutions across BC. Many of the communities of practice that now exist in mental health and addictions in BC are seeds that have been planted after Nancy's initial work in 2007.

Recently, Nancy's passion for mental health could probably be seen most strongly in her championing against homelessness. She was consulted by the Street to Home Foundation on their five year-plan to end homelessness in Vancouver. She also became involved with the End Homeless Now ministry, which aimed to educate the public about solutions to homelessness.

Nancy was well respected and recognized for her work in the mental health field. In 2010, she was awarded CMHA BC's Leadership Award, as well as CMHA National's highest honour, the Clarence M. Hincks Award, which is presented annually to one outstanding individual or organization which has advanced mental health in Canada through their work or volunteer activities by working on behalf of people with mental illness.

On March 24, 2011, Nancy passed away in Vancouver at the age of 60 after living with metastatic breast cancer.

## The Dr. Nancy Hall Speaking Up Speaking Out Endowment Fund

In March 2011, CMHA BC established the Dr. Nancy Hall Speaking Up Speaking Out Endowment Fund in honour of Nancy Hall. The Association committed to growing the initial endowment investment of \$50,000 to \$1 million. The fund will support CMHA's continued work in public policy and systemic advocacy at the provincial level and provide an informed independent voice on the impact of the public mental health system on the lives of people with mental illness and substance use problems and their families.

### Nomination Form

#### Candidate (individual or organization)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Nominator

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of Merit

Please include with your nomination a statement that includes the following:

- A description of the nominated individual's or organization's activities that have led to (a) advocacy on behalf of people with mental illness, substance use problems and/or addictive disorders (b) influences or changes to mental health and addictions policy, or (c) promotion of positive mental health
- An explanation of how these activities have advanced mental health in BC and the scope of the impact (local, provincial, regional)

Please refer to the selection criteria on the previous page for more information about the evaluation of nominations.

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