



Nursing Week 2021

A message from Tess Kroeker, NNPBC Director & RPN Council President

On behalf of NNPBC's RPN Council, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Nursing Week!

This year, we once again celebrate Nursing Week during a global pandemic and an overdose crisis that shows no signs of abating. The toll these crises take on nurses is immense and leaves us all experiencing the pull of wanting to do more but being challenged by the physical and moral exhaustion we all feel. I know that many of you are working in multiple roles, and your efforts do not go unnoticed. We acknowledge your service, resiliency, and leadership.

I also want to formally recognize BC's hardworking RPNs who as we all know have an important and unique role in health care. RPNs are skilled practitioners who evaluate the holistic health status of individuals, and your focus on developmental, psychosocial, emotional, and physical health. By advocating for marginalized and stigmatized populations, promoting integrative approaches to care, and developing strong, therapeutic relationships with patients and clients across this province, it is clear just how integral RPNs are to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

While this week we celebrate nursing, I would be remiss in not acknowledging the passing of a great friend to nurses in this province, Gerald "Spike" Peachey. Spike was a passionate advocate for people who use substances. He reminded us about the impacts of stigma, the importance of harm reduction and, one of the most important aspects of nursing practice, understanding the holistic needs of the people we care for and meeting them where they are, without judgement. Spike spoke to numerous nurses of all designations as well as students and knew better than most the distinct work that nurses do in the area of substance use as well as stigma and harm reduction. He told us clearly that we could do better, but also reminded us of the power in connecting with and truly listening to understand each other. Thank you Spike for sharing your wisdom and your voice. We mourn your loss and are thinking of your friends and colleagues. We will honour your memory by continuing our work in the areas you cared most about.

This Nursing Week be sure to reflect on the excellent work you have done and the numerous ways in which your nursing practice helps patients and clients. It is through these meaningful and person-centred actions that you directly influence positive change in health care.

Happy Nursing Week and Happy RPN Day!

Tess Kroeker, RPN

NNPBC Board Director and RPN Council President