



**Providence
Health Care**

How you want to be treated.

FACULTY

West Coast Conference on Aging

June 19 – 20, 2025

Dr. Elder Roberta Price

Dr. and Elder Roberta Price has worked tirelessly over the past four decades to heal, to educate and to raise awareness about issues affecting Indigenous Peoples. As a First Nations educator, she generously shares her traditional knowledge in schools, within the community, and with Indigenous People. Roberta is a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother.



Fiona Dalton

Chief Executive Officer, Providence Health Care

Fiona Dalton became President and Chief Executive Officer of Providence Health Care on April 23, 2018. Fiona holds a BA Honours in Human Sciences from The Queen's College, Oxford University. She received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Southampton in 2017.

Fiona has amassed over 27 years of increasingly senior health care experience, distinguishing herself as a values-based leader, cultivating ethical and progressive organizational cultures that put patients and residents first. Under her previous leadership as the CEO of University Hospital Southampton NHS (National Health Service) Foundation Trust in the United Kingdom,





the NHS's Care Quality Commission ranked the hospital as "Good" overall and "Outstanding" in the "Well Led" category.

Fiona is passionate about improving patient outcomes and organizational performance by focusing on improving quality, safety, staff wellness, staff engagement, and fiscal and environmental stewardship. She is an ardent champion of enabling and spreading research and innovation—from ideas formulation to pilot-implementation to scaled-up commercialization—that have positive real-world impacts.

Mark Blandford

President & Chief Executive Officer, Providence Living

Mark Blandford was appointed President and CEO of Providence Living in November 2022. From September 2020 to March 2025, he served as Vice President, Seniors Care, Clinical & Operations at Providence Health Care.

Mark is a Registered Occupational Therapist who also holds a master's degree in leadership from Royal Roads University. Mark has worked clinically in a wide variety of settings in the UK, Nova Scotia and on Vancouver Island. These include geriatrics, acute medicine, rehabilitation as well as community and long-term care. His past leadership roles have included Director of Development at the non-profit Beacon Community Services, as well as senior management roles in Island Health Authority's LTC, Seniors Health and Home & Community Care programs.



In early 2014, Mark was appointed as Deputy Seniors Advocate with the newly created provincial Office of the Seniors Advocate for British Columbia. In 2016, Mark was appointed the Director of Clinical Operations at Victoria General Hospital, and subsequently became the Executive Director for Seniors Health and Primary Care for Island Health, where he was the operational and strategic lead for the long-term care (LTC) COVID-19 response for the 6,000 LTC beds as well as the 900 unit assisted living portfolio. Mark was also the strategic lead for the Island Health seniors care and community care strategy and its Palliative and End of Life program.





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Francis Maza, PhD

Vice President, Mission, Ethics & Spirituality, Providence Health Care

Francis Maza was appointed Vice President, Mission, Ethics & Spirituality, effective January 4, 2022.

Francis has over 15 years of experience in providing executive leadership for clinical, organizational business ethics, mission integration, Spiritual Care and leadership formation. He has a Doctor of Ministry from University of Toronto's St. Michael's College, a Master of Theological Studies from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, a Bachelor of Science in Medical Microbiology from the University of Saskatchewan and has attained his Specialist in Spiritual Care designation from the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care.



Since 2007, as Executive Lead, Mission, Spiritual Care and Ethics at Emmanuel Care—a health care provider of acute, long-term and community care throughout Saskatchewan—Francis provided strategic leadership in ensuring effectiveness of mission integration, ethics and spirituality throughout Emmanuel Care and its sponsored works.

Francis is well known throughout the Canadian Catholic health care sector, and has wide-ranging experience working with Ecclesial authorities, numerous Archdiocese and other faith-based organizations and stakeholders. He has contributed regularly to the PHC-led Foundations in Catholic Health Leadership program and has extensive experience in strengthening organizational cultures – always ensuring that values-based decision making, and ethical and moral reflection are part of organizational planning and program delivery.

Francis was born and raised in El Salvador. He immigrated to Canada in 1990 with his family due to the civil war in El Salvador. He has lived, studied and worked mostly in Western Canada ever since.





Dan Levitt

BC Seniors Advocate, Office of the Seniors Advocate

Dan Levitt has tirelessly championed the rights of seniors for 30 years at the local, provincial, national and international levels. Prior to his appointment as BC's Seniors Advocate, Dan held leadership positions in senior-living and long-term care homes in the Lower Mainland for more than 10 years where he helped shape a dementia-friendly future for seniors and their loved ones. He was an adjunct professor of gerontology at both Simon Fraser University and a former sessional instructor at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. He has also been a surveyor with Accreditation Canada, reviewing quality improvement and person-centred care at long-term care homes and community-based service providers across Canada.



He is a certified health executive with the Canadian College of Health Leaders and achieved Fellowship status in the college in July 2024. He also received the Young Executive Award presented by the BC Lower Mainland Chapter Executive of the Canadian College of Health Leaders. On the global stage, Levitt recently served as a member of the board of directors of the Global Ageing Network and the International Federation on Ageing. Dan earned an undergraduate degree from the UBC and master's degree from the University of North Texas, Center for Studies in Aging. He has served on the board of directors for the Denominational Health Association and the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia. He is inspired by the aging journeys of his grandparents and great-grandparents, and is now supporting his parents, who are living life to the fullest in their mid-80s.





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Dr. Jennifer Walker

Associate Professor, Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University

Dr. Jennifer Walker is a Haudenosaunee member of Six Nations of the Grand River with a Ph.D. in Community Health Sciences (Epidemiology) from the University of Calgary. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health Data and Aging at McMaster University and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact.



Serena Eagland

Clinical Nurse Specialist, Providence Health Care

Serena Eagland is a Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Urban Health & Substance Use Program. She has a Master of Nursing with a focus in Leadership in Health System Transformation. With over a decade of experience providing substance use care in both community and acute care settings, Serena is passionate about building equity for people who use drugs into all areas of the healthcare system.



Karen Custodio

Director of Operations, Providence Living

Karen Custodio joined Providence Living in 2022 and holds a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Social Work. As a Registered Social Worker, she has embraced a person-centred anti-oppressive approach to supporting individuals experiencing psychosocial and health complexities. She has worked in health care for over 10 years and is passionate about Providence Living's Home for Us model of care and how this social relational model of care can transform how long-term care serves seniors.





Jade Miller

Director of Care, Providence Living

Jade was born and raised on Vancouver Island. She started her nursing career at Nanaimo General Hospital on a cardiac medicine ward. In 2005, her enthusiasm for cardiac nursing led her to complete her Critical Care and Emergency training at BCIT. She worked extensively at St. Paul's Hospital as a staff nurse in Cardiac ICU, interim Clinical Nurse Leader and Triage Coordinator for the Heart Centre and Critical Care Units.



Throughout her career, Jade has continually challenged herself to take on a variety of nursing roles. She spent time as a rural nurse in Haida Gwaii, clinic nurse at Options for Sexual Health and more recently, working at immunization clinics during COVID.

In 2024, Jade joined Providence Living as Assistant Director of Care and now Director of Care at Central City Lodge and Cooper Place. She has gained valuable experience navigating the challenges of long term on the Downtown Eastside. She enjoys gardening, playing the piano and coaching cross country for children.

Shelley West

Social Worker, Providence Living

Shelley spent 15 years working with youth and their families in mental health & forensics before returning to school to complete her MSW. After graduating, she spent time working in acute care before taking a position at Central City Lodge in 2016. While Shelley has supported folks all along the life span, her clients' have always been the type who demand to live life on their own terms. Shelley believes deeply in clients' right to self-determine and she is fascinated by the intersection of capacity, aging and risk.





Dr. Debra Sheets, Ph.D., MSN, RN

Professor Emerita, School of Nursing, University of Victoria

Debra Sheets is a Professor Emerita in the School of Nursing and a research affiliate with the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) at the University of Victoria. Dr. Sheets is the founder of four community-based, intergenerational initiatives (i.e., Voices in Motion choir, Memory Café Victoria, Minds on the Go, Memory Connections), aimed at making the arts more accessible to persons living with dementia and their care partners.



Dr. Michael Yellow Bird

Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba

Michael Yellow Bird, MSW, PhD, is a Professor at the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. He is an enrolled member of the MHA Nation (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara) in North Dakota, USA. He has held faculty and administrative appointments at the University of British Columbia, University of Kansas, Arizona State University, Humboldt State University, and North Dakota State University.



His research focuses on the effects of colonization and methods of decolonization, ancestral health, intermittent fasting, Indigenous mindfulness, neurodecolonization, mindful decolonization, and the cultural significance of Rez dogs. He is the founder, director, and principal investigator of The Centre for Mindful Decolonization and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba. He serves as a consultant, trainer, and senior advisor to several BIPOC mindfulness groups and organizations who are seeking to incorporate mindfulness practices, philosophies, and activities to Indigenize and decolonize western mindfulness approaches in order to address systemic racism and engage in structural change.





Jennifer Lyle (Moderator)

Chief Executive Officer, Alzheimer Society of B.C.

Jennifer Lyle is the Chief Executive Officer of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. Prior to joining the Alzheimer Society of B.C., she was the founding CEO of BC's continuing care workplace safety association, SafeCare BC. Jen has also previously worked in a dual role as a health-care practitioner and the Director of Operations for a Burnaby-based rehabilitation organization and has collaborated on research looking at the impact of design on people living with dementia. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Simon Fraser University and a Master of Health Administration from the University of British Columbia.



Dr. Janet Kow

Vice President for Quality, Safety and Long-Term Care, Providence Health Care

Dr. Janet Kow MD, M.Ed.FRCPC is a Geriatrician based at Providence Health Care in Vancouver and the Vice President for Quality, Safety and Long Term Care. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor at UBC and was past Division Head of Geriatric Medicine at UBC.

Prior to this appointment, Dr. Kow led numerous roles at Providence.





Anthony Kupferschmidt

Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons, City of Vancouver

Anthony Kupferschmidt is a Credentialed Professional Gerontologist and the Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons with the City of Vancouver. In this role, he leads policy, planning and strategy for the aging population and works collaboratively across departments and with community partners and other levels of government to help make Vancouver a more age-inclusive city.



Anthony completed the MA in Gerontology through Simon Fraser University and has been working in the field of aging for his entire career, including in seniors' centres, care homes, adult day programs, hospitals and research settings. He previously worked with the City of Richmond, the Alzheimer Society of B.C., and as Executive Director with the West End Seniors' Network in Vancouver and the Langley Senior Resources Society.

Dr. Grace Park

Past Regional Medical Director Home and Community Care, Fraser Health Authority

As a family physician and Regional Medical Director for Home and Community Care, Dr Park has worked within the Healthy Authority system to influence and provide proactive care for the older adults to empower older adults to remain independent and age in place. Adding to the important services provided by the community health services team, she has led the co-creation of the social prescribing scheme with United Way BC and the Canadian Frailty Network to add holistic, upstream approach to care that address the social determinants of health and social inequities that often affect health and wellness.



She continues to work with United Way BC to support the spread of social prescribing throughout BC working toward integration of the health care systems and the community based senior service organizations. Her research interests lie in the assessment and prevention of frailty and gerosciences that measure the impact of social interventions on the biological markers of aging.





Dr. Lillian Hung RN, PhD

UBC School of Nursing, Founder and head of the Innovation in Dementia & Aging lab

Associate Professor UBC School of Nursing and Canada Research Chair in Senior Care

Dr. Lillian Hung is the founder and head of IDEA lab (Innovation in Dementia & Aging). Her research examines how technology and environment impact the care experiences of persons with dementia.

She has expertise in patient-oriented research and knowledge translation. She is committed to facilitating connectivity between academia and practice, working collaboratively with interprofessional practitioners to find practical solutions to address pressing problems in care settings.



Tyler Paetkau

Clinical Ethicist

Tyler Paetkau is a clinical ethicist at Providence Healthcare. He holds a Master of Arts in Bioethics (Philosophy) from McGill University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public and Population Health at the University of British Columbia.

Tyler has contributed to the academic field with publications in the Journal of Medical Ethics, European Journal of Philosophy of Science, and Vaccine as well as presentations at national and international conferences. He joined the Ethics Services team at Providence Healthcare in February 2024.





Mario Gregorio

Patient Engagement Partner for NeuroCognitive Disorder or dementia, UBC IDEA Lab

Since Mario Gregorio was diagnosed with Vascular Cognitive Impairment in 2008, he became a passionate advocate for the treatment and care of people living with dementia. He is driven by his passion to create awareness, reduce stigma and educate the public about the disease.

He is a member of Patient Voices Network (PVN) and CEAN and various steering committees such as the Center for Healthy Aging (C4HA), and Burnaby Dementia Friendly Community Action Plan. As a member of the advisory committee for Alzheimer Society Canada, he helped create the Charter of Rights for People Living with Dementia.



Dr. Sandy Hazelip

Dr. Sandy, as many of her patients call her, now limits her practice to hospice care. She is the Medical Director for Hospice of the Big Country.

But Dr. Sandy wears other hats besides her “doctor” hat. She is a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother. She is also a widow. The love of her life, her husband, Don Hazelip, died 24 years ago.

She is also a published author and lecturer and has spoken in the United States, China, Germany, Croatia, Romania, Russia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Zambia on women’s health issues. She also has participated in and taught Bible lessons for Ladies’ Retreats in those countries.

One of her greatest joys has been the experience of taking her grandchildren on short term mission trips to Zambia, Russia, China, Cambodia, and Romania. But let me give you fair warning, DO NOT ask her about her four “youngest” grandchildren, who are all adopted from China, unless you have a lot of time to hear all about “how cute and smart and wonderful they are.” She also became a Circumnavigator of the world in 2023 at the age of 81.





Eleanor "Ellie" Hamby

Eleanor "Ellie" Hamby was born and raised on a farm in Arnett, Oklahoma, and currently lives in Abilene, Texas. She married Kelly Hamby in 1959, and they were blessed with two children, Kel and Sheryl, and they raised a young man, Moon. In 1975, they moved to Abilene, TX, where her husband became a professor at Abilene Christian University. In 1980, they became involved with the ministry at Namwianga Mission in Zambia, Africa, and moved to Zambia in 1983. They moved back to the USA in 1989 and continued to travel yearly to Zambia.



Ellie has traveled to Zambia every year since 1980, except for the covid years of 2019 through 2022. Ellie is an international documentary photographer. She has traveled to over 115 countries and all seven continents "always with my camera at my side." She also became a Circumnavigator of the world in 2023 at the age of 81 when she traveled the world in 80 days at age 81 with her best friend Sandy Hazelip. She serves as Zambia Mission Fund's Executive Director and Zambia Medical Mission's Co-Director. The love of her life, Kelly, passed away 18 years ago. Ellie has three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren and has traveled internationally with her children and many of her grandchildren.





MODERATORS

Sharon Parkes

Executive Director, Operations, Seniors Care, Providence Living and Providence Health Care

Sharon has executive oversight of all Providence Living care village operations, including clinical, support services, HR, and activities related to community and assisted-living provincial licensing.

An RN by training, Sharon brings a wealth of experience to this role, having had the opportunity to work in many settings in addition to more than a decade's worth of operational and strategic leadership experience. Sharon holds a master's degree in education from the University of Surrey and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Honours from Sheffield Hallam University.



Ashley Payne

Director of Operations, Seniors Care, Providence Health Care

Ashley Payne, MSW RSW has a wealth of experience in social work, particularly in the field of Seniors care and has held various leadership roles within different healthcare organizations. With a master's degree in social work from York University and a bachelor's degree in social work and Women's Studies from the University of Victoria, Ashley has a strong academic background to complement their practical experience in roles such as Social Worker, Resident Care Manager, and Medical Assistance in Dying Response Lead.





Jeff Masse

Resident Care Manager and Site Leader, Brock Fahrni, Providence Health Care

Jeff Masse is the Resident Care Manager and Site Leader at Brock Fahrni Residence. He has a background in Occupational Therapy, and he has worked clinically in a wide variety of settings including geriatrics, rehabilitation, acute medicine, mental health and substance use and now long-term care. Jeff is driven to prioritize client-centered care, promoting quality of life and enabling meaningful participation in daily activities.

