

April 3, 2020

# IALH REMOTE UPDATE



Institute on Aging  
& Lifelong Health

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## COVID-19: What does that mean for IALH?

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health team is now working remotely and all in-person research participation has been suspended. The R Hut building is closed to in-person visitors. Please contact us at [aging@uvic.ca](mailto:aging@uvic.ca) if you have any questions or concerns.

The BC Public Health Officer, Dr Bonnie Henry, has placed a suspension on all in-person gatherings of more than 50 people, until May 30<sup>th</sup>. As we are practising physical distancing, we are postponing all in-person events until further notice. We have regrettably postponed our April Masterminds Lecture Series with the UVic Retirees Association, and our Evening with André Picard.

For more information on UVic's response to COVID-19, please visit [www.uvic.ca/covid-19](http://www.uvic.ca/covid-19)

Stay Connected! You can email us at [aging@uvic.ca](mailto:aging@uvic.ca), or visit us on Social Media



@UVicAging



UVic Institute on  
Aging & Lifelong  
Health

Isolation can be boring...but it can also lead to discovery! You can connect to the world and explore new places with your device. Below are some links for "virtual field trips", perfect for those rainy days.

[Go to the Theatre](#)

[Go to the Zoo](#)

[Yellowstone National Park](#)

[The Great Wall of China](#)

[The Royal Tyrrell Museum](#)

[Canadian Farm Tours](#)

[Canadian Museum of History](#)

[The Canadian Arctic](#)

[Learn something new!](#)

We hope you have fun exploring these new places. If there are any you would like to share with us, we'd love to hear from you!

[aging@uvic.ca](mailto:aging@uvic.ca)



**We are very pleased to share an update on Robert Beringer's, (Post-Doctoral Fellow with IALH) outstanding work with the LGBTQI2S Dignity Project.**

The LGBTQI2S Dignity Project Website and Film Vignettes were first conceptualized in February of 2018 focusing on LGBTQI2S health and wellness. This project has been organized by a robust, cross-sectoral partnership between the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)'s Institute of Gender and Health, EGale Canada, Hacking Health, Rainbow Health Ontario, Cossette Health and the Michael Smith Foundation.

*"I decided to take a community-based approach by asking members of LGBTQI2S organizations around BC for script suggestions. We chose to develop "Never Married", "It Still Hurts" and "Special Occasion" and I am pleased at what my team, entirely based on Salt Spring Island, BC (this includes screenplay writing, directing, producing, props, filming/post-production, and the work of the actors), has produced. The website itself, was refined by a professional on Vancouver Island, so the entire project has a very local flavour. " - Robert Beringer*

To learn more about this project, and to view these films, visit <https://www.lgbtqi2sdignityproject.ca/>

**In the words of Bonnie Henry, British Columbia Public Health Officer:**  
*"Wash your hands like you've been chopping jalapeños and you need to change your contacts."*

## BC211– Safe Seniors, Strong Communities

BC211 is a Vancouver-based, non profit organization that specializes in providing information and referral regarding community, government or social services in BC. Their [Safe Seniors, Strong Communities program](#) matches seniors who need support with non-medical essentials, to volunteers in their community that are willing to help.

You can access this free, confidential resource by calling 2-1-1 or texting the name of your city to 211. \*\*TTY- Access for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community in BC is available by dialing 604 875-0885. To learn more about BC211, please visit their [website](#).

### Are you struggling to get out for walks during isolation?

Are you lacking motivation to get outside for a walk? Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC Public Health Officer has urged British Columbians to still get out for walks and fresh air to help with our physical and mental health while we are in isolation, just not with others who do not reside in our households. With spring finally here, and Easter just around the corner, you may notice some pops of colour in the windows around your neighborhood in the form of coloured Easter eggs. Because the community Easter egg hunts have been cancelled, kids of all ages across the CRD are participating in a touchless “Egg hunt” by colouring paper eggs and hanging them in the windows for people to see and count while out walking. For more information on this touchless egg hunt, search “Victoria Covid-19 Community Easter Egg Hunt” on Facebook.

This [news article](#) touches on the benefits of walking and how to do so safely while practicing physical distancing. Stay safe and stay well!



### Call for Research Participants on Vancouver Island “Experiences of bereaved family members of recipients of medical assistance in dying (MAiD)”

*Are you a **family member** of someone who died through MAiD on Vancouver Island?  
Would you be willing to speak about **your** experience?*

#### If so:

Tracy Powell, a doctoral candidate in the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria and a nursing educator at Mount Royal University in Calgary, wants to hear from you for a study seeking to understand your experience and perspective of being a family member who has had a significant other end their life through MAiD.

Participation in this study would require you to be interviewed by Tracy, and to complete a demographic questionnaire. **To be considered for this study, you should be 19 years of age and over; able to speak and read English; able to consent to participate; reside on Vancouver Island, BC; are a family member of an individual who received MAiD; and, the MAiD event occurred on Vancouver Island, BC.** Involvement in this study is voluntary.

If you would like more information about this study and/or are interested in participating, *please contact:* **Tracy Powell** at [tlpowell@mtroyal.ca](mailto:tlpowell@mtroyal.ca) or **403-440-8847** (Note: this may be a long-distance number depending on your location, long-distance charges may apply).

THIS RESEARCH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD



# Seeking Partnerships with Older Adults & Caregivers for Research Study on Assistive Technologies



## Research Project Description

We are an interdisciplinary team of researchers at the University of Victoria working with CanAssist and health system partners on a research study titled 'Knowledge Implementation for Scale-up, Spread, and Sustainability' (KISSS-AT). This study aims to improve the uptake, spread, and sustainability of assistive technologies for older adults in British Columbia. We will apply a new framework to several innovative assistive technologies currently being developed by CanAssist for older adults receiving care at home or in the community. This study also aims to help the health system better develop tools for assessing, implementing and evaluating assistive technologies.

This study has been funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research for a 3-year Implementation Science Team – Project Grant.

## Your Role

We are currently seeking to involve partners with lived experience to work directly with the research team throughout the project. Persons with lived experience may include older adults or caregivers with experience using assistive technologies in the home or community care setting.

If you are interested in being a partner, we would invite you to be on our advisory committee. As a member of the advisory committee we would ask for your involvement with the selection of appropriate methods and recruitment strategies, advice on the appropriateness of the lay summary and knowledge products, assist in revising data collection materials (e.g., interview guides), consult on the findings and their interpretation, and inform knowledge translation activities (e.g., media releases, reports, posters, workshops, etc.).

## Logistics

- We would like to involve partners in early 2020 until the end of the project in August 2022.
- Partners will be asked to attend 3 to 4 meetings per year that are approximately 3-4 hours in duration. The meetings will be held in-person with a teleconference option and documents will be shared via email.
- Out-of-pocket expenses such as parking and mileage to attend the meetings will be reimbursed. Refreshments will also be provided at the meetings.
- In appreciation for your time and contributions, we will offer an honorarium up to \$300 at the end of each year (\$900 total).
- You are also invited to attend an End-of-Project forum that will be held in Victoria, BC.

## Contact

For more information, please contact:

Karen Kobayashi, Co-Lead  
[kmkobay@uvic.ca](mailto:kmkobay@uvic.ca) or 250-721-7574

Shannon Tracey, Project Coordinator  
[kissst@uvic.ca](mailto:kissst@uvic.ca) or 250-721-6528



## In Memoriam– Doreen Burrows

We are saddened to announce the March 12, 2020 passing of a long-time friend of our research centre, Doreen Burrows. She was 92 years old.

Doreen began volunteering at the Institute, originally the Centre on Aging, when it opened in 1992. She was on the Advisory Board and became the first community-member chair in 1998. She created the Friends of the Centre, a volunteer group involved in research and dissemination, where she acted as president for several years.

Doreen worked for years to refine and promote her belief that many in our community make a difference through their volunteer activities yet they are never recognized. As chair of the centre’s Advisory Board, Doreen proposed developing the Valued Elder Recognition Award (VERA) as a way to celebrate the first United Nations International Year of Older Persons in 1999. The board embraced the idea and the first VERAs were presented in 2000. We are celebrating 20 years of VERA this year.

Doreen received a Valued Elder Recognition Award in 2003 for her dedication to our community, the centre, and her vision in creating the VERA. She believed in a positive approach to every aspect of life and her philosophy is best summed up in her own words: "Life is not a dress rehearsal, we have to seize the moment of joy."

