

Dr. Blythe Shepard Award

Honours and recognizes contributions to the counselling profession in Alberta and/or Northwest Territories

2018

It is my pleasure to speak to the work that Kathy has done for the AB/NWT chapter of CCPA. Kathy was integral to the initial creation of the chapter with Blythe Shepard and has devoted herself to its growth for more than a decade. Some of the words that comes to mind when I think of Kathy is steadfast, committed, and determined. I believe the incredible growth of the chapter, it's relevance to the landscape of Alberta mental health, and its value to our membership, is largely due to the fact that we have been recipients of Kathy's steadfast, committed, and determined nature. Kathy has never wavered from her commitment to the chapter's goals of nurturing connection and growth in the profession and improving the safety and effectiveness of counselling services through regulation of the profession. She has worked tirelessly at even the most tedious aspects of the Chapter's work with this vision in mind.

Kathy is also gifted at inspiring and enabling others. Most of the people who have been involved in the chapter board will credit a conversation (or many!) with Kathy as the tipping point to deciding to become involved. This is not only because she inspires the vision of chapter, but because she is able to help people recognize their own capacities and the particular contributions they can make. I have personally been a recipient of Kathy's rich and generous mentoring and I believe all my own work for CCPA and regulation really started with Kathy's unwavering encouragement and persistence. It has enabled me to take risks professionally that I would not otherwise have taken. I also appreciate how she consistently grounds action in ethics and the greater good - anchoring the vision in something that makes it so compelling, we cannot help becoming committed and persistent about it ourselves!

Kathy is a humble person who would prefer shining the light on other people's accomplishments, and she does this all the time. For this reason, it brings me so much joy to be able to add my name to her nomination for this very special award and to share my perspective of why she is so worthy of receiving it. Kathy, on behalf of all members of

the AB/NWT Chapter past, present and future, I thank you for the extraordinary investment of your time, energy and gifts towards the advancement of our profession. I also thank you on behalf of the public, for the many ways that your work has also led to improvement of counselling services in Alberta. I hope you will enjoy this moment of recognition and deep gratitude, which is so well deserved.



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