



Natasha Kellett, Masset, British Columbia

Natasha is a community dental hygienist. She has been for many years. In 2017 she took a job in the tiny community of Masset and moved there. She is kind and considerate. She is gentle yet firm in her manner. She's an absolute hero. Kids and adults love her.

I wish to nominate my colleague, Natasha Kellett, who is a true Dental Hygiene Superhero, an inspiration to all who have had the pleasure of working with her. Natasha is the program supervisor at the Old Massett Dental Clinic, a band-run non-profit First Nations Community Dental Clinic on the island of Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. Her current project involves managing trauma-based dental fear and intergenerational dental trauma with traditional Indigenous healers. At this date, Haida Gwaii is on self-isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is much stress as flights have been cancelled and the ferry is for freight and locals returning home only. Any locals returning from off-island are asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

The health centre she works at is closed to the public and the doors are locked. Only the most essential services are provided, and by appointment only. At the time of this nomination no dentist was there so she is trying her best to manage "teledentistry" with the only dentist on the island right now, who is in Queen Charlotte and in self-isolation. Natasha is also part of the Pandemic Response Team at the health centre and is overseeing food security for the elders and other vulnerable members of the community. I believe she deserves recognition because she always works very hard and takes pride in what she does even in the most difficult of circumstances. She makes lives better every day and inspires the people she meets with her commitment to improving oral and overall health. Client focus, empowerment through education, accountability, leadership, integrity, respect, and compassion are all words that describe Natasha's devotion to improving oral and overall health. She makes lives better every day and goes above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you for considering and acknowledging her superpower!

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I had the good fortune of working with Natasha for over 10 years at Interior Health. Natasha is a wonderfully compassionate dental hygienist, who is motivated to help her clients and make a positive difference in this world. One of her current projects is focused on managing trauma-based dental fear and intergenerational dental trauma with traditional Indigenous healers. She has incorporated the healers and their methods into the participants' dental visits. This has been well received by the participants, with promising results.



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