



## Yvonne Smith, Squamish, British Columbia

Yvonne has been working in community health in the Sea to Sky corridor for at least 2 decades during part of her working week and the balance of the days spent in clinical private practice. Yvonne is a natural juggler as she navigates easily reaching out to the various indigenous communities in her region, the immigrant population and other priority groups that are emergent. The diversity of needs within the community spurred Yvonne to forge trusted relationships with other care providers, educators, and agencies to integrate the oral health program within the framework of community health. Yvonne travels the icy, snowy highway and back roads in winter to screen mouths, take toothbrushes, and fluoride varnish so all children have access to information and oral health services. Many years of train travel to snow locked Lillooet to stay in the health care providers residence and provide clinical care to the community through a local dental office rounds out Yvonne's commitment to oral health care. Living in a small rural community or series of communities like Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton, Mount Currie and Darcy and all points in between means that being an oral health educator never ends. There is a blurry border between private and professional life when grocery shopping, skiing, and walking the dog. There is little anonymity when the community dental hygienist is a sole provider and Yvonne is the face of oral health ensuring those in need have access to care in local dental offices. Yvonne championed the cause when the discrepancy between children in foster care and indigenous children in foster care became an impediment to access to care for indigenous foster kids. Once identified, the differences were mitigated, thanks to Yvonne taking the initiative to care. Yvonne advocated for persons with disabilities to have increased access to care because their caregivers voices needed to be heard. There is another aspect to Yvonne's story that is pretty cool or, er cold, that is! She and her spouse participated in the Whistler Olympics by being hands on with the technical set up and operation of the ski jump infrastructure and event. Having done such a great job there they were asked to go to Sochi when Russia hosted the Olympics and ended up having a rare adventure participating there. Yvonne's commitment to care in oral health through her various roles is outstanding. However, Yvonne is an extraordinary person when it comes to family. When her spouse's mum needed care in Ontario Yvonne took her vacation time and a leave to provide 24 hour care for an extended time. When her various nieces and nephews visited from the Prairies....auntie



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Yvonne provided the ski tickets and hosted snowcations at Whistler. Currently Yvonne's family involvement has resulted in a miracle. A close relative with a chronic condition has received the care and attention under Yvonne's guidance to be able to be more mobile and independent. Thanks to Covid Yvonne could take the time usually spent in community health to dedicate to her family as all our usual programs have been suspended. That does not mean that Yvonne does not keep her finger on the pulse...she will zoom in when she can to touch base. Yvonne inspires me to maintain the balance of community and clinical care in my professional dental hygiene life.



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