



## Anna Nelson, Nanaimo, British Columbia

I am nominating Anna Nelson as this year's dental hygiene superhero. Anna has been a hygienist for over 10 years and has really given back to the community with her achievements in the hygiene profession. She is a clinical instructor and resource hygienist at Vancouver Island University, she is the owner of a fully mobile independent dental hygiene practice, and the mother of 3 children. I work with Anna at the university, and her passion for student learning is impressive. She is truly there to help educate the next generation of dental hygienists and is inspiring to watch. She always goes above and beyond by taking the time to explain things thoroughly and she keeps her knowledge up to date and fresh. Anna also started her own independent practice in a mobile hygiene van. She started 6 months before the pandemic and has really proliferated on Vancouver Island. She has collaborated with physiotherapy and extended health clinics and has also allowed dental hygiene practitioners to start their own independent businesses out of her space. She named her business the Wandering Pearl, and it truly wanders around Central Vancouver Island servicing people in need. She goes to the remote Gulf Islands weekly to service indigenous communities and has taken the extra effort to take continuing education on indigenous cultures. She sees families who find it hard to make it to a dental office, as well as elderly clients and people with disabilities right at their doorstep. She even goes to group homes and makes comprehensive oral health care plans for youth in need. I am not sure how she has the time to do all of this and be a mother of 3 boys, but she is truly inspirational. The sense of empowerment she has given other hygienists is what has made her my nominee for a dental hygiene superhero! Ann is consistently caring for her patients through fastidious and careful treatment and providing dental health care instruction and information. She is passionate and hardworking and, as long as she practises, I know I am in good hands; I have been a patient for 25 years and will continue to be.

Ann is a very caring and gentle hygienist. She's an amazing hygienist and kind to all her patients. She has taught me how to floss my teeth the right way. Nobody has ever done that. She is a great care provider. Thank you, Annmarie for being the best—I wouldn't see anyone else.

Ann immediately makes you feel comfortable and well taken care of; she's also very thorough. I look forward to our visits!



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