



Goldie White

PRESENT OCCUPATION/POSITION

Regional nurse in Makkovik, Labrador

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goldie exemplifies commitment, caring, and innovation on the front line. For 50 years, she has been providing health services to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) in rural and remote communities, where she still practices today as a regional nurse.

Goldie's very first nursing position in a rural cottage hospital illustrates the type of career she has embraced; within 8 months of graduation she performed 50 deliveries. Over the next five decades she has held a variety of community based positions where she recalls having to develop and interpret x-rays in the clinic attic; learn how to inject local anaesthesia and perform dental care; and manage wide spread communicable diseases such as TB and typhoid. Her dedication to promoting community health services remains undaunted today.

During a recent visit by the Premier of NL to Makkovik, Goldie secured needed funds for a new ambulance by chauffeuring the Premier in the old truck that acted as their ambulance, so he could experience what patients endured. Although most of her career has been in direct care, in the early 70's her 'let's get it done approach' resulted in her being recruited into the position of assistant executive director of nursing of a regional rural hospital, where she was instrumental in improving the quality of RN's work life. She brought in fair and equitable personal policies offering nurses benefits such as maternity leave, access to continuing education and support to attend professional activities.

Goldie has obtained several certificates in hospital organization, management and administration, as well a baccalaureate in Health Services Administration. She has current certification in advanced cardiac life support, trauma nursing care, diabetes educator, medical evacuation, advanced foot care and wilderness training (in case anything ever happened while transporting patients). In 2006, she completed the Nurse Practitioner program.

Goldie was one of the first ARNNL presidents to come from rural Newfoundland, a position she held for 3 years. Over her tenure ARNNL moved on primary health care, baccalaureate nursing education, and distance education. For over 15 years she was president of the local ARNNL chapter. Chapters served as a link between ARNNL and local communities. Her chapter was well known for their dedication to professional activities illustrated in the well known story of how she led her colleagues across an iced in harbour by jumping on ice pans in order to attend an ARNNL Annual meeting.