

Dr. Robin Love: CSPCP Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, 2024

The Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP) is pleased to award a CSPCP Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Robin Love, in recognition of his sustained and lasting contribution to palliative medicine and to the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP).

Dr. Love completed his MD at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1986 followed by 2 years at McGill University (Family Medicine). Early in his career, he developed an interest in Palliative Medicine and was very fortunate to have the opportunity to train with and be inspired by Dr. Balfour Mount in Montreal, as well as Dr. Michael Downing and others at the Victoria Hospice program.

Dr. Love started a family practice in Nanaimo in 1988, and in addition to the usual family practice activities (office, hospital, ER and Obstetrics), he saw the need for a Palliative Care program. With support from Senior Nurses and the hospital administration, Dr. Love started a palliative care consultation service in 1991 and in 1993 he opened the Nanaimo Palliative Care Unit - a 12-bed inpatient unit. Dr. Love saw an average of 200+ consultations per year and oversaw the daily care of all who entered the unit. Dr. Love was the Medical Director of the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital Palliative care program from its inception in 1993 until he retired in December 2023. He also stayed active in his family practice until 2020 and has been a strong advocate for family physicians providing advanced palliative care.

Dr. Love is a founding member of the CSPCP and was on the Board for a term. In terms of education, he was CSPCP's Continuing Medical Education chairman for 8 years. He was also a Clinical Professor at UBC and actively involved in the UBC Faculty of Medicine program at the Nanaimo site as a preceptor and Faculty development coordinator. The Palliative Medicine program is active in teaching medical students, Family Practice and Palliative Medicine residents.

Dr. Love's hard work and dedication to teaching and contributions to the practice of medicine have led him to receiving several awards. In 2009, he received the BC College of Family Physicians "Community Family Physician of the Year" award that acknowledges physicians who provide and contribute to excellence in care and family medicine. Dr. Love also received the Dr. Patricia Clugston Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2010, in recognition of his contributions to teaching residents in a manner that is safe, encouraging, and supportive. Dr. Love was awarded the 2014 Award of Excellence in Medical Practice from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia for his remarkable contribution in several areas including teaching and clinical practice.

Dr. Love is a humanitarian at heart. At the Nanaimo Urgent Care Clinic, he provided hundreds of hours of service to care for people experiencing homelessness. Internationally, Dr. Love has been involved in program development and teaching. He has made eleven trips to Nepal since 2001 with Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration (TWCC). The TWCC began in 2005 and is a "twinning partnership" between Nanaimo Palliative Care and a startup program at Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital in Nepal. TWCC has done significant palliative medicine development (adults and children) in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and has advocated for palliative medicine in other countries including Egypt, Brazil, Bhutan, Philippines, and others. TWCC provides support and education for physicians and

nurses in Nepal, and monthly funds to pay for essential medications and works on new program development.

Dr. Love has been supported by his spouse Deirdre, and his amazing physician, nursing, social work, and other colleagues throughout all these adventures. His future plans include continuing with the Nepal programs, travel, fly-fishing and more time woodworking and gardening.

Dr. Love's many adventures in palliative care have had a deep and positive impact on the field, and his dedication to this community is worthy of attention. The CSPCP is pleased to give Dr. Robin Love the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award.