

Press Release from Action for Reform of Residential Care (ARRC B.C.)  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*“Simon Fraser University Honours Two ARRC B.C. Leaders.”  
Two ARRC B.C. Leaders are awarded the SFU Seniors Leadership Award*

ARRC BC, a non-profit citizens group advocating for reform of long-term care, is very pleased to announce that two of its key trailblazers, Chairperson Penny MacCourt and Leadership Team member Kathleen Jamieson, have won Senior Leadership Awards from Simon Fraser University. Initiated in 2001, this award recognizes and honours seniors who make significant and valuable volunteer contributions.

Dr. MacCourt holds bachelor and graduate degrees in social work from the University of Manitoba and a PhD (Interdisciplinary Studies) from the University of Victoria. She has worked for over thirty years with seniors in long-term, community, and acute care settings as a social worker and mental health consultant.

The founder of ARRC B.C. and its current Chairperson, Penny has conducted national projects and led research studies related to mental health needs of seniors. She currently sits on the Older Adult Advisory Committee to the Mental Health Commission of Canada and recently authored “Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being in Residential Care” written on behalf of the Canadian Coalition for Seniors’ Mental Health. <https://www.csagroup.org/wp-content/uploads/CSA-Group-Research-Supporting-Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-in-Community-Residential-Care-Settings.pdf>

Kathleen Jamieson is a member of the ARRC B.C. leadership team and like Penny, has a long and distinguished history of volunteerism. She holds an M.A. cum laude from Edinburgh University and completed graduate studies in Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University. Over many decades, her work has remained focused on supporting public health care and addressing issues of equity for marginalized groups in countries around the world.

The goal of Kathleen’s volunteer and paid roles has always been to support the human rights of marginalized people and communities so that they may live healthier, happier and longer lives. She spent more than two decades working with Indigenous people across Canada as a researcher and in community development.

As leaders of ARRC B.C., a citizen’s group supported by families, health care providers, unions, seniors’ organizations, and researchers with in-depth experience of long-term care, Penny and Kathleen work tirelessly to advance the organization’s focus: complete reform of

the long-term care system resulting in improved quality of care and quality of life for residents, their families and their staff.

ARRC B.C. congratulates these two inspirational leaders and thanks Simon Fraser University for recognizing their exceptional volunteer contributions.

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