

LETTER FROM THE CEO + BOARD CHAIR

I couldn't be more excited to have joined BC Women's Health Foundation this year as the President and CEO. While I knew I was joining an incredible community transforming women's health, I have been blown away by the life-changing work happening at BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre and the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI).

It was my first tour of the NICU that showed me that BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre was leading the way for neonatal care across the province and beyond. As I walked around, seeing the equipment that many of you supported, I met healthcare leaders who had developed protocols for bringing moms, babies, and their family together in one room. This changed how care was delivered in the NICU as these protocols were adopted provincially.

It didn't take much time for me to learn that BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre is always leading the way for improved care for women. The new Leslie, Lauri + Jill Diamond Surgical Suites, funded by the Diamond Family, made way for innovative surgical procedures for women that use sedation instead of anesthetics. The new space helped increase capacity and during the pandemic, BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre was able to keep waitlists short and ensure women received the care they needed in a timely manner.

The Women's Health Research Institute, which is comprised of more than 450 researchers across the province, focuses on advancing women's health by tackling real health issues women face. This year's Illuminations Luncheon successfully raised funds to help support the WHRI's ground-breaking Catalyst Grants, which provides seed money to researchers to investigate topics in women's health. For the past two years, we have received a total of 45 applications to Catalyst Grants for research topics in women's health and only 12 were funded.



While we are grateful to be able to fund some of these thanks to your support, many topics that are never researched still need funding to be explored. To me, this speaks to why we are all here: There is much work to be done to ensure women's health is top of mind for everyone. As we move forward together, we will continue to fund projects that ensure equity and ensure BC Women's Hospital + Health Care Centre has the resources they need to continue leading and improving care for women, newborns, and their families across the province.

The BC Women's Health Foundation team is beyond grateful for your continued support.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cally Wesson".

CALLY WESSON
President + CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Randall-Nelson".

JENNIFER RANDALL NELSON
Board Chair