

# ***Good Neighbours Award 2023***

Mary Jane MacLennan



Mary Jane MacLennan has been a member of the Westside Seniors Hub (WSH) Council since its formation in February 2015. She not only attended monthly Council meetings but was also active in the Housing Committee and led the Health and Wellness Committee in sponsoring training sessions with the BC Alzheimer Society. In April 2020, Mary Jane became Chair of Hub Council and under her leadership, the Hub has expanded its non-profit partnerships and community outreach.

Mary Jane holds a B.A. in economics from Mt. Allison University and an MSW in social policy from UBC. After a 35-year career spent in federal government leadership roles on east and west coasts, Mary Jane is giving back to the community. True to her maritime roots and UBC social work training, she helps seniors and senior-serving organizations identify and solve challenges, most recently through the Westside Seniors Hub.

Now, as chair of the Council of Seniors, and alongside her WSH council colleagues, she's honoured to collaborate with UBC's School of Nursing as the official community partner in the Building Capacity for Meaningful Participation by People Living with Dementia project funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada National Dementia Strategy. Age-friendly community capacity building is her passion.

Recreationally, you can find Mary Jane cross country skiing on Cypress in winter and playing outdoors with her 4 grandchildren every season of the year. She is a regular in a back alley taiji group formed during Covid, a book club and has a passion for walking.

Mary Jane has inspired and improved lives in the West Side community through her tireless efforts and endless devotion to the work and development of the community through her involvement with the Westside Seniors Hub. Mary Jane has 535 lifetime volunteer hours with Kitsilano Neighbourhood House - she truly exemplifies what a "Good Neighbours" volunteer is!

**Congratulations to Mary Jane on being selected as the recipient of the 2023 Kits House  
Good Neighbours Award!**