

## **Citation for Marion Dowling for a UPEI Distinguished Alumni Award**

Mention a certain global pandemic on Prince Edward Island, and a short list of names will come up.. Marion Dowling RN is sure to be near the top of that list. As PEI's Chief of Nursing, Ms. Dowling rose to prominence with her weekly COVID-19 updates alongside Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Heather Morrison and Premier Dennis King throughout 2020 and 2021.

Born and raised on Prince Edward Island, Ms. Dowling holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Prince Edward Island, Class of 1996, and a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Ottawa in 2008.

As a student, she was part of the first class of nursing students at UPEI. As nursing was a new program, Ms. Dowling fondly recalls sitting on the floor during some of her labs in the early years, but she says that the teaching was top notch, and the experience added to her positive learning experience at UPEI. During her time as a student, Ms. Dowling was busy working in the campus bookstore, assisting in nursing labs, and serving as president of her class as well as earning her degree.

During her twenty-plus year career in nursing, Ms. Dowling worked as a registered nurse at Kings County Memorial Hospital in Montague, PEI, before beginning a nursing administrative career that included such roles as Director of Nursing for Kings County Memorial Hospital, Nursing Policy Consultant with the Department of Health and Social Services, Associate Director of Nursing (Clinical Services) for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and Director of Nursing for the Queen Elizabeth and Hillsborough Hospitals.

Ms. Dowling has represented the Province of PEI as principal nursing adviser to the Canadian Nursing Association and Health Canada's Office of Nursing Policy. She led the PEI Nursing Resource Advisory Committee and participated in curriculum advisory committees for both practical and baccalaureate nursing programs. Ms. Dowling also played a key role in the revision of provincial legislation to allow nurse practitioners to practice in the province.

Ms. Dowling received the Canadian Nurses' Association Order of Merit Award for Nursing Policy in 2008 and completed a fellowship with the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement in 2019 with a focus on integrating nursing sensitive patient outcomes into acute care nursing practice on PEI. In 2020, she was a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow award from The Rotary Club of Hillsborough-Charlottetown. The award is the highest honour given by a Rotary Club to recognize a person for a substantial contribution to humanitarian efforts and advancement of goodwill around the world.

Outside her nursing career, Ms. Dowling is a celebrated athlete and coach, including being named Female Athlete of the Year by Sport PEI in 2002. That was a big year for her! She and her PEI teammates challenged for a Canadian National women's hockey championship, finishing fifth, and she played with Team Canada's gold-medal-winning ringette team at the World Ringette Championships as one of only two players from Atlantic Canada on the 25-player roster. As a coach, Ms. Dowling represented PEI twice at the Canada Games and was an assistant coach of the women's national ringette team in 2007 at the World Ringette Championships. She continues to coach ringette today at the local and provincial level with her children.

For her outstanding commitment to keeping our Island safe during COVID-19 and beyond, we are proud to present Ms. Dowling with a 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award.