



## 2025 UPEI Distinguished Alumni Award

### Dr. Janice Keefe (BA 1984)

Dr. Janice Keefe graduated from UPEI in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Her academic journey continued at the University of Guelph where she completed a Master of Arts in Sociology/Anthropology and a PhD in Family Relations and Human Development.

She began her career working in public municipal home care and joined Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) in 1990, where today she is a Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Aging and Family Science. She holds the Lena Isabel Jodrey Chair in Gerontology and is the Director of the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging at MSVU. From 2002 to 2012, she was MSVU's first Canada Research Chair in Aging and Caregiver Policy. She holds adjunct appointments at Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine and is an affiliated scientist with Nova Scotia Health and a research scientist at the Maritime Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research Support Unit.

Dr. Keefe is an award-winning academic, recognized as one of Canada's leading researchers on aging, long-term care, and family and friend caregivers. Her research also includes continuing care policy and human resources, dementia care, and rural aging. She has led several multidisciplinary, Tri-Council funded projects focused on long-term care and home and community care. She is the nominated principal investigator on a four-year \$2.1 million dollar grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research that will assess the quality of work life and work environment of staff in long-term care facilities, and their relationship to resident quality-of care-outcomes in Atlantic Canada.

In 2016, Dr. Keefe led a four-year multi-institutional study evaluating the programs, practices, and policies used in residential long-term care facilities across Canada. The study, called "Seniors—Adding Life to Years," received \$2 million dollars from a number of health research foundations and societies. In 2018, she led a national home care study that received \$860,000 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The aim of the four-year project, titled "How approaches to care shape the pathways of older adult home care clients," was to better understand how policy, practice, and decision-making shape a client's journey through the home care system.

Her tremendous work has, without a doubt, significantly impacted policy and practice in support of aging populations in Canada and beyond. Her research informs policies that will allow parents and grandparents to enjoy healthier aging and that create better working conditions for long-term care staff.

Outside the research lab, Dr. Keefe mentors undergraduate and graduate students and provides financial support by donating to scholarships including an entrance scholarship for graduate students at MSVU in memory of her mother Genevieve Keefe and a scholarship at UPEI in memory of her sister Colleen Keefe Malone.

Dr. Keefe is Vice-Chair of the European-Canada Scientific Advisory Board of the *Joint Programming Initiative More Years Better Lives*, and an active member of numerous organizations including the Canadian Health Standards Organization Long-Term Care Services Technical Committee, and the PEI

Long-Term Care COVID Review Panel. She has contributed to the Royal Society of Canada's report on COVID-19 and long-term care. She chaired the Government of Nova Scotia's Ministerial Expert Panel on Long-Term Care in 2019 and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Long-Term Care Review Panel in 2025.

In 2021, Dr. Keefe became a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences—one of the highest honours for individuals in the Canadian health sciences community. Last year, she was named a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, and this year, she was elected Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Gerontology. She has also won awards from the Canadian Association of Gerontology, the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence, and the Global Ageing Network.

In recognition of her dedication to the field of gerontology, research on healthy aging, and public policy leadership, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present Dr. Janice Keefe, BA 1984, with a 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award.