



# Tomorrow's National Leader Award

2021

**Jo-Ann Tait**

Vancouver, British Columbia



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The Tomorrow's National Leader Award is given to young leaders who are carrying our values into the future. They are role models who have already made significant contribution locally to our ministry of healing and, through their leadership, also provide witness to our mission at a national level.

This year we are recognizing, Jo-Ann Tait. Jo-Ann is Executive Director of Regional Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Supportive Housing for Vancouver Coastal Health.

For 10 years, Jo-Ann held leadership roles at Providence Health Care and Providence Living in Vancouver before moving to her current role. She also served as the pandemic response lead for the Vancouver Emergency Operations Centre for LTC and Assisted Living. What an incredibly important role to play.

During Jo-Ann's leadership years at Providence Health Care she:

- Opened the first tertiary mental health program serving older adults who previously had been institutionalized in large psychiatric hospitals. This is life changing work;
- She also developed a vision for redeveloping ageing infrastructure and a new clinical services plan, which included Canada's first publicly funded dementia village on Vancouver Island – quite remarkable;

- Jo-Ann Co-created and implemented a culture change initiative which focused on the experience of residents, their loved ones and the people who work in homes, for this work she was received the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council - Quality Culture Trailblazer award in 2018.

She has been a member of the Board of Catholic Health Association of British Columbia (CHABC) since 2009 where she was instrumental in creating visitation programs to help parishes find and support people in their community who are isolated and alone. And I am going to finish with a quote.

In his letter of support Archbishop Michael Miller of Vancouver writes: "Jo-Ann exemplifies imaginative dedication to all that she takes on. Her compassionate, tireless efforts for the good of those she serves, particularly people living in care facilities, is a model of servant leadership.

Jo-Ann's strong values are the essence of her deep commitment to service, and her leadership influence is such that those who work alongside her come to share her passionate and principled approach to the task at hand. This is how Jo-Ann's work crosses over into true ministry."

I think that speaks beautifully to Jo-Ann's personal qualities.

For many deserving reasons Jo-Ann Tait, you are awarded the 2021 Tomorrow's National Leaders Award.

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