



March 12, 2021

One year ago, on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Yesterday, on the one year anniversary of the declaration, the world marked it as a day of remembrance for those lost and a day of recognition for essential and health workers who have continued to work throughout the course of this very difficult year.

I hope that each of us takes a moment in our own ways to reflect and remember the nearly three million people worldwide, the 22,000 Canadians and the nearly 1,400 British Columbians whom we have lost to this illness. Those we have lost include mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, wives, husbands, partners, soul mates, family, friends and colleagues – our people. This has been a devastating year for us all.

In spite of the devastation, I look forward with hope and take a second moment to pause, make space to grieve with our friends and families, honour and respect our loved ones lost and to take comfort in the fact that we are closer to the end of this than the beginning. Things will never be the same, but they also will not go back to the way they were.

As nurses, we have seen the toll this pandemic has taken on our profession, yet nurses have continued to persist and persevere, providing high quality care to all those who need it. We have gone to work, dealt with uncertainty, provided expert clinical knowledge, worked long(er) hours than normal, worked through the worry for our own safety and that of our families, and held the hands of those who have died separated from the ones who love them. There are really no words to represent the sacrifices made by nurses throughout this year. For this commitment to caring courageously from every nurse in the province, I say thank you.

I have included the "love letter" to nurses our staff team created and shared at our December Awards of Nursing Excellence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsxHYioZup8&t=154s>

From me and the NNPBC team to you and yours.

Thank you.

Michael Sandler

Michael Sandler, RN, MSN, CNCC(C)
Executive Director
Nurses & Nurse Practitioners of BC