

In memoriam - Ruth Ellen May

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on behalf of

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Thu 2/27/2014 6:35 PM

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It is with great sadness that the School of Nursing announces the death of Dr. Ruth May, colleague, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, and scholar. Dr. May graduated from Wellesley College, and spent many years in the Canadian North as a nurse midwife. She practiced in St. Mary's, Labrador as part of the Grenfell Mission to bring health care to remote parts of the country. She was a beloved member of the faculty of the School of Nursing for 28 years. Dr. May was invited by Dalhousie University School of Nursing to pilot the Outpost Nursing Program in 1996. This program produced many graduates who provided safe and efficacious health care in very rural and remote parts of Canada and, particularly, to remote aboriginal communities. Her inclusion of cross cultural competence in the curriculum was rooted in a profound personal respect for the dignity and worth of individuals – both students and recipients of nursing care. For more than three decades, the Outpost Nursing Program at Dalhousie set the standard for preparation of nurses for advanced practice roles and it has since been incorporated into the current nurse practitioner graduate MN program. In recognition of her significant contributions, she received a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* from Dalhousie University, an accomplishment the School of Nursing proudly acknowledges with a formal portrait photograph of Dr. May in the School foyer. At the convocation ceremony, Dr. May was lauded for "her influential role in improving the standard of health care in Canada and for her dedication as an outstanding nurses practitioner and educator..." . Her influence and reach is international in scope. In her honour, friends, and associates were benefactors of an award, named in her honour, that annually recognizes the clinical excellence and professional growth of a nurse practitioner student.