

Edwina Nearhood

Fort St. John, BC

Ms. Nearhood is a heart failure survivor who managed hypertrophic cardiomyopathy for 40 years. In the last 15 years, she had severe heart failure resulting in subsequent heart transplant. This led to her spending many of those years in rural BC where she experienced many gaps in care that resulted in unnecessary severe damage to her heart. Complications during her care for transplant resulted in permanent blindness.

With her lived experience and knowledge Ms. Nearhood strongly believes in quality improvement to bridge these gaps. Patient participation and peer support achieve better outcomes in prevention, management, and end stage heart failure.

Ms. Nearhood represents persons with disabilities, female care, rural care, overlapping health authorities, and a passion for quality improvement.