

## BIO

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Sharon MacKenzie BA MEd (UBC), originator of Meadows School Intergenerational Immersion Project, taught K-university for thirty years in Canada. Recipient of the Premier's Teaching Excellence Award for innovative school-community connecting, and the Healthy Living Alliance Award for Innovative Community Capacity Building, Sharon is founder (2008) and Executive Director of i2i Intergenerational Society ([www.intergenerational.ca](http://www.intergenerational.ca)). She initiated Intergenerational Day Canada (2010) and is Director with Canadian Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Sharon, an Intergenerational and Educational Consultant is primary researcher and writer of three intergenerational resources: 'WEAAD Teen Kit' (IFA), 'Across the Generations—Respect All Ages' (Public Health Agency Canada), 'Creating Caring Communities' (BC MoH). She also advises post-grad intergenerational research studies.

While world traveler and mother of three, Sharon watched opportunities to connect generations diminish. Breakdown of family units and relocation of individuals for work or war sharpened ageist issues. For two decades Sharon had students visit older adults but she was not accessing the huge potential of intergenerational. So, she developed 'intergenerational immersion', moving her students into a makeshift classroom in the senior facility for two full months. On-site daily they shared curriculum, volunteer activities, and socialization. Ten years later, this model continues to positively and powerfully impact community health.