

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 20, 2020**



## **Dr Bonnie Henry is Admired in Our Place fundraiser**

### ***Artist expands Portraits of Influential Women***

**VICTORIA, B.C.** - When artist Elfrida Schragen approached Our Place about creating a unique portrait exhibition of influential women of Greater Victoria, little did we know exactly how influential a certain Dr. Bonnie Henry would become during the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic.

To boost the final leg of Our Place's **Admired: Portraits of Influential Women** fundraising campaign, Dr. Henry graciously volunteered to sit for a portrait.

That portrait is now part of the online gallery at <http://www.hibid.ca/events/admired> as a unique project to benefit Our Place during this time of crisis.

"I painted these portraits to honour women in my community whom I, and others, find admirable and effective in whatever they do in life," says Schragen.

All the money raised will support the vital work Our Place offers to some of Greater Victoria's most vulnerable women struggling with poverty, mental or physical challenges, or homelessness.

Thanks to the support and co-operation of her subjects, Elfrida's portraits feature dozens of admired women who have achieved notoriety in a variety of areas, including: Community Connections: Carlyne Taylor, Politics: Lisa Helps; Theatre: Lina De Guevera; Religion: Shana Lynngood; Business: Catherine Holt; Media: Leslie Campbell; Education: Dawn Smith; Arts: Carol Sabiston; Indigenous Leadership: Florence Dick- Songhees Nation.

People are asked to visit the Online Gallery <http://www.hibid.ca/events/admired> until July 31 to check out each portrait and read each individual's story. Visitors can then decide which of the women they would like to pay tribute to by making an online donation to Our Place. Each portrait has a goal of \$1,000. Dr. Henry's portrait is also on display at Central Art Studio Gallery on Fort St.

For over 50 years, Our Place has been a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide much of the financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides 3 meals a day plus snacks, hot showers, education, job skills, health care, addiction recovery services, donated clothing, counseling and outreach services; plus 45 transitional housing units and over 150 shelter spaces. Most importantly, Our Place provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

**CAPTION: Artist Elfrida Schragen with her portrait of Dr. Bonnie Henry.**

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