

Dr. Liz Whynot completed her MD at Queen's University in 1972 and a Masters of Health Science at the University of British Columbia in 1994. Subsequently, she has held appointments as a Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia, and an Associate Member of the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology.

Her first job as a physician was at the Pine Free Clinic (1973-78) and from 1979 to 1990 she ran a private family practice in Vancouver. Dr. Whynot co-founded the Vancouver (now BC Women's) Sexual Assault Service in 1982. In 1990, she accepted the role of Medical Health Officer for Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and championed the development of the Sheway Outreach Program for Substance Using Pregnant Women as well as strategies to address the HIV and Hepatitis C among drug users. In 2007, she received a Network of East Vancouver Community Organizations award for contributions specifically for work on behalf this impoverished area.

In 2000, she became the leader of BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre, retiring from her role as President in November 2008. During her time at BC Women's, she worked with partners to develop the provincial women's health strategy, "Advancing the Health of Girls and Women" and established the Provincial Women's Health Network to support implementation activities. She also oversaw the development of a Women's Health Research Strategy and the establishment of the first Women's Health Research Institute in Canada. In 2002, BC Women's established the Fir Square Combined Care Unit for pregnant women with significant substance use problems, an innovative program that has reduced risk and health consequences for hundreds of women and infants. Dr. Whynot and BC Women's have also championed the development of an Aboriginal Maternity Strategy for the province. In 2007, BC Women's was awarded the prestigious Arthur Kroeger College 2007 Public Affairs Award presented by Carleton University recognizing the contribution of BC Women's as an organization to the overall well being of the community.

On her retirement from BC Women's, Aboriginal community leaders honoured Dr. Whynot with a celebration for working as an ally with them to improve the health of BC's aboriginal people. In 2009, she was also recognized by the Kaiser Foundation with a National Award for Excellence in Leadership.

Liz has provided consultation to the Shien Kyoiku Health Safety and Education Network in Japan, an educational organization dedicated to reducing the impact of sexual violence in that country. In May 2010, she participated in forums in Yonago, Osaka and Tokyo on this subject.

For more than 35 years Dr. Liz Whynot has been committed to working with the most vulnerable populations in British Columbia. In collaboration with many others she has ensured the successful development of innovative programs that have helped some of society's most vulnerable members. All of these initiatives have aimed to better the health and lives of women and children, especially those living in difficult circumstances. She intends to continue this focus in her new role as Director of Whynot & Associates Consulting.