

# THE UBC CONSORTIUM FOR NURSING HISTORY INQUIRY

## Health History Lecture Series

### *“Place and Nursing in Remote Northern Communities: A Historical Perspective”*

#### **Dr. Lesley McBain**

Associate Professor, First Nations  
University of Canada, Department of  
Indigenous Languages, Arts & Cultures

**March 11, 2015**

**12:00 – 1:00 pm**

**UBC School of Nursing**  
Room T182 • UBC Hospital  
2211 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC

Following World War II, governments began extending healthcare to residents living in northern remote communities as a way to "modernize" the vast region and to pave the way for increased resource extraction. Small outpost nursing stations were established across the north where nurses, often working alone and facing a number of challenges, delivered health care services to the primarily Aboriginal population. However, the nurses' roles and their perceptions of the communities where they worked were often ambiguous and contradictory, resulting in a mixed experience for nurses and patients alike. Drawing from the nurses' personal correspondence and interviews, this presentation will examine the perspectives about the places where nurses worked and the people they provided services to during a time of significant change.

Dr. McBain received her doctorate degree in Geography from the University of Saskatchewan and has a Masters and Bachelors degree in Geography from the University of Saskatchewan. She is the Consortium's 2015 Visiting Associate Professor.



a place of mind  
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School of Nursing  
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