

A wife to her very supportive husband Raj, mother of two sons Dan and Rahvie, grandmother of five, successful entrepreneur, community champion and a true lady. Buncy Pagely, a third generation Indo-Canadian, has spent 45 years as a leader committed for the betterment of all citizens. Following in the footsteps of her father, and grandfather, she inherited dedication and service to any community in need. She worked alongside Ken Curry on the Programming Committee at the YM-YWCA (the "Y"), planning for the first Women of Distinction (WOD) special program. Later she was asked to become a Judge on the Nomination Committee for the WOD Event. She was the first lady of Indian decent elected to the Y Board of Directors in Greater Victoria. She was a part of the planning of the first Interfaith Group to be formed in Victoria at the Y for 10 years, under her mentor, Mrs. Eileen Sheard, former Y President. Furthermore, she Co-chaired the International Development Committee (IDC) at the Y. This led to the integration of the ethno cultural groups into our mainstream Victoria society today. The IDC with the support of the East Indian Community held their fundraising events at the Y and the IDC expanded to invite the Lester B Pearson College students to meet and join in with the Y youth. Many fundraisers were organized for the IDC with an East Indian theme including fashion shows and dinners as well as including the India Canada Cultural Association (ICCA) fundraising events. Hence, the Y became an integral part of Buncy's family.

True leadership is going beyond the call of duty by sacrificing personal choices for the betterment of others. In saying this, she was a founding member of the British Columbia Council of the Family (BCCF), an organization that works together looking at family issues in the communities of BC. At this time of her life, she became involved in the improvement to women's programming. There was a need to address the issues of the new immigrant women in Victoria and in 1979 Buncy became the first Multicultural Women's Coordinator in BC for the Intercultural Association of Victoria (ICA). Later, in 1982, Buncy was a founding member of the Greater Victoria Multicultural Women's Association (GVMWA), a volunteer center for women and families of all cultural backgrounds to share in educational programs. Hence, her journey began to contribute to the multicultural associations and multicultural groups in BC and was elected Vice President of the first BC Immigrant Women's Association (BCIWA). Always looking at the best in the women that she would be with, the GVMWA was one of the most successful volunteer associations in the west, it was operated by volunteers helping each other with programs and projects to help better the lives of the immigrant and visible minority women. She received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the GVMWA. In 1983, she was named Honouree for the Emily Carr Award, "Woman of the Year" for her outstanding community service. She was recognized also that year for her leadership and planning abilities and was appointed to the Board of Directors, International Woodworkers Credit Union (IWCU). Buncy initiated and founded the Commonwealth Nations Committee (CNC) in 1991, a multicultural support group for the Victoria Commonwealth Games Society (VCGS). The CNC's role was to increase awareness in the community of the Commonwealth Nations, and to organize the recruitment of over 1000 volunteers for the Parade of Nations, Flagbearer's Program. During this time she was appointed to the Board of Governors of the VCGS. She was chosen as Team Attaché for the Commonwealth Nation of Maldives, hosting Chef de Mission and the athletes of Maldives and took part in the Opening Day Ceremony Parade. In 1993, she was one of

the founding members for the multicultural event, "All One Family", which was held as a legacy piece of the Victoria Commonwealth Games. The Municipality of Saanich hosted and sponsored this annual event at their three recreational facilities for the following ten years.

A great leader also requires the natural ability to communicate; Buncy later became a Public Relations Representative and Spokesperson to address various interest groups, and to coordinate media coverage. She organized conferences and cross-cultural communication workshops at the municipal, provincial and national levels of government. She became an active participant, lecturer and chair of various workshops where she assisted in the compilation of directories, reports, and handbooks. She taught Punjabi language and Sikh history at the Punjabi Akali Singh Temple, and interpreted the Punjabi language for community services for the Municipality of Saanich, the Victoria Police, schools and health programs. She advanced awareness on Multiculturalism, immigrant and visible minority women's issues, race relations (harmony), status of equality and human rights into Federal and Provincial levels through various submissions. In 1985 she was appointed to the National Multicultural Advisory Committee (NMAC) where she worked as an Immigrant Women's Chairperson for Canada, as part of the Advisors to the Minister of Multiculturalism assisting in the making of the *Multicultural Act* and compensations for the Japanese Internment. In 1987 she received two awards, the Volunteer Service Award from the Federal Government and Recognition by the Secretary of State. The following year, she received the Honorary Citizen Award from the City of Victoria and the CFA Community Service Merit Award for Citizen of the Year, for her volunteer community leadership to the advancement of Multiculturalism. In 1988, Buncy was appointed to the first Provincial Cultural Heritage Executive Committee (PCHEC), as Families Chair, which led to the forming of the BC Multicultural Policy.

She went back to College for two years to advance her education to help set up her own business, as Principal of Pagely Consulting, Victoria, BC. She later coordinated and facilitated a Home Based Program for Immigrant Women in Victoria, sponsored by the Ministry of Small Business. The program was to teach the necessary skills to set up home-based businesses for women without skills. Being with women and working together as a team(s) was important to Buncy at all times. She has always seen the best in all the women that she has worked with in the past, present and future. If any woman could not speak or understand English, she helped them visually with a smile that made them feel good.

In 1991 she started her healthcare educational programs throughout BC where 50 Cancer Awareness Programs were developed to heighten the awareness of the immigrant and visible minority women about Mammography Screening, Breast Self Examination, Pap Smear Testing, Menopause, Estrogen Replacement and Nutrition in the context of being pro-active and taking preventative measures in their lives. There were over 2000 participants and 200 Health-care professionals involved. This led to the need of a compilation of a cross-cultural inventory of select hospitals within BC in regards to cross-cultural sensitivity in their institutions. An extensive report was compiled with recommendations gathered through meetings held with hospital boards, Directors and heads of staff in consultation of how to be more culturally sensitive to the needs of the Multicultural Communities of BC. Buncy's abstract on Cancer Awareness was accepted

at the National Breast Cancer Conference in Toronto, 1993.

As she worked with the communities she saw the rise in heart disease occurring within families. She conducted research in heart disease comparing mortality rates between Canada and India, to discover the rising rates in India. Seeing the need she coordinated and facilitated 23 Smart Heart Awareness Programs for the multicultural and South Asian communities of BC, because of their risk factors of heart disease in Canada. As well 46 health care professional presentations were held in Sikh Temples, Ismaili Mosques, and Ethnic Halls. These programs were made possible through sponsorship from the University of Victoria, Health Sciences Department; the Provincial Government and the corporate sector. These two educational programs were a series of programs called, "Do You Care About Your Health?" Pagely Consulting. A presentation of an abstract was made in Montreal, Quebec, at the fourth International Conference on Preventative Cardiology in 1997, titled, "Smart Heart Awareness Programs for South Asians in BC".

Buncy also contributed to the increase in health status of First Nations People, as Coordinator and Facilitator of sixteen Educational Health Programs for the Songhee's First Nations Aboriginal community. She developed the first Diabetes Health Care Center for the Songhee's First Nation, which included a home monitoring system, a healthy lunch program as well as learning the importance of having an exercise regime. A program called, "Healthy Choices", was delivered to First Nation students in elementary, junior and high schools. She was elected to the Aboriginal Advisory Panel for the Capital Health Region in 1999 and she received the CFAA Citation Rose Award.

In the next year she participated at the first International Women's Conference on Heart Health Disease in Victoria, BC. She received the 125<sup>th</sup> Canada Commemorative Medal, contribution to Canada, regarding her unique cancer awareness programs. Furthermore in 2002, she received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal for work as a Health Care Educator and her volunteer commitment to Boards and Committees in Victoria, BC and Canada. She earned the appointment to the Urban Containment Committee (UCC) and to the Community Council of Greater Victoria (CCGV), both a part of the Municipality of Saanich.

When Buncy retired she continued with her volunteer work with the South Asian Heart Disease Project for the Ontario Heart and Stroke, as part of the Health Promotion Committee (HPC). In her capacity to promoting positive health in the community, she volunteered for the World Breast Cancer Conference Committee (WBCCC) and the Royal Jubilee Hospital Cardiac Resource Centre (RJHCRC). At the Centre, where she donated her materials, her role was to be a multicultural resource for patients in the Cardiac ward. She was appointed as a Public Member of the BC College of Chiropractors (BCCC) and in 2003 was elected to the Saanich Peninsula Health Association (SPHA) as Public Relations and Liaison for Aboriginal Health.

Remarkable is a small word describing the lifelong efforts and contributions of Buncy Pagely. She is a stellar candidate for the Lifetime Achievement category for the 2004-05 Women of Distinction Annual Awards.