

2018 YWCA TORONTO WOMEN OF DISTINCTION



DR. PAT ARMSTRONG *Health & Education*

Dr. Pat Armstrong has challenged the boundaries of gender equity throughout a formidable 50 year career. Recognized as an accomplished sociologist, researcher, advocate, and teacher, she is also recognized for being unapologetically feminist.

Pat held a Canada Health Services Research Foundation/Canadian Institute of Health Research Chair, is a Distinguished Research Professor in Sociology, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Pat's passion for health care policy, women and work, coupled with her collaborative research and methods has led to substantial improvements for women and girls of all ages. She has demonstrated leadership in bringing feminism to classrooms, workplaces, and policy arenas.

Pat brings a gender lens to the Canadian health care system, exposing how reforms have negatively impacted the provision of and access to care. The vast scope of Pat's published work is rivaled only by her influence with legislators, policy makers, community organizations, courts, and tribunals that have relied upon her research, expert testimonies, and reports across Canada and internationally, especially on pay equity.

Pat's illustrious career has been punctuated with watershed moments that have cleared a path for women. Her 1978 book, *The Double Ghetto: Canadian Women and Their Segregated Work*, set the standard

for understanding the systemic discrimination women face. Pat was Chair of Women and Health Care Reform, a group funded by Health Canada, and was acting director of the National Network on Environments and Women's Health. Currently, Pat is doing groundbreaking research to improve the quality of work and life in long-term residential care, a sector that primarily serves women and where women do most of the paid and unpaid work.

In 2007, Pat received the Ontario Health Coalition's Ethel Meade Award for Excellence in Research in the Public Interest. She is a board member of the Canadian Health Coalition and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives as well as co-chair of the Canadian Association of University Teacher's Equity Committee.

Throughout Pat's prolific career she has reached far beyond academe to champion the interests of women and girls and exemplified what it means to be a feminist public intellectual.


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