



### **My background ...**

My formal education includes a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Master in Education (Leadership) and Master in Education (Counselling). My master thesis was actually a program evaluation. My credentials include Credentialed Evaluator (CE), Certified Canadian Counsellor (CCC) and a registered Counselling Therapist (CT). In 1999, I began working for the Province in program evaluation, a position I held until I retired from the provincial government in 2015 as a Manager of Assessment and Evaluation. I also worked in the private sector for the Atlantic Evaluation Group for one year. I served for over six years as the PEI representative on the National Board of the CES and worked on developing and implementing the Credentialed Evaluator designation during my tenure. I served on the provincial CES PEI Chapter Board of Directors for 10 years. I began changing my focus in 2012, with the addition of a new skill set involving counselling. Currently, I work as a School Counsellor at Westwood Primary School. I have a small business for program evaluation, proposal writing, and consulting. I enjoy promoting program evaluation and have delivered the Essential Skills Series. Since 2011, I have been teaching evaluation at the graduate level through UPEI, MUN, UNB, DAL, Acadia and St. Mary's universities.



### **Evaluations I have been involved with**

Recently, apart from developing some proposals, and some consulting, my program evaluation activities have been focused on teaching program evaluation. I teach to PEI provincial civil servants in the Leaders In Action series, as well as other management programs. I also teach Program Evaluation at the graduate level at UPEI, MUN, DAL, St. Mary's, Acadia and UNB. I try to mentor as many new evaluators as possible and have acted as an advisor for some graduate students in program evaluation.

### **Ways that I think evaluation can benefit society...**

Ultimately to improve programs. Evaluation results can be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of a program, identify ways to improve a program, modify program planning, demonstrate accountability, and justify funding. Evaluation provides a systematic method to study a program, practice, intervention, or initiative to understand how well it achieves its goals.

### **My advice for a new evaluator...**

Get involved in the Canadian Evaluation Society and go to the evaluation conferences if you can. It is so important to have a larger group of like-minded evaluation professionals to call colleagues and friends in a world that feels like you are alone at times.

### **What I like most about evaluation...**

Program evaluation helps people make sense of their programs and to understand the link between what they are doing and what they hope to accomplish. Additionally, program evaluation can take many other forms. Evaluators can choose to specialize in just about anything – the content area they are evaluating, research design, data analysis, surveys, research, project management, grant writing/applying to RFPs, disseminating results, writing reports, etc. Different types of program evaluation can serve different purposes depending on what information is needed, by whom, and when. Evaluators never get bored!

### **What drew you to evaluation... recently...**

In 1999, as a graduate student, Dr. Vianne Timmons, the Dean of Education of the day at UPEI and my boss at the time, dragged me along to a "Lunch and Learn" session for the Canadian Evaluation Society. I was hooked on evaluation from that first experience. I was drawn to it because I felt like it made so much sense in a world where we are always trying to make sense of things. I love the critical, yet justifiable, examination of programs and how they could be improved or in some cases abolished. I also love the systematic process an evaluation follows and how the research supports recommendations.