

*"Carolyn has been a stabilizing force with CAVEWAS over the course of her long tenure with the society. She has remained steadfast in her commitment to the visions and goals of the society and to the growth and development of vocational evaluation in Canada. She has been an invaluable representative and liaison with CCWAVES regarding the introduction of the CVE designation and since, has remained a strong voice and advocate for Canadian based CVE's. Carolyn has been a tremendous mentor and role model and her quiet, dignified, respectful and genuine approach will be missed. Thank you Carolyn for your commitment to the board and, most importantly to vocational evaluation."*

*CAVEWAS Board of Directors*

*"Over the years she has given freely of herself to the CARP National Board, CAVEWA, the rehabilitation profession and her clients. Her grace, wisdom and wealth of experience have been of benefit to everyone who has come into contact with her. The Fellowship Award has been designed to honour the very best in our profession and Carolyn truly meets that standard. Her retirement is met with mixed feelings: sadness that she is leaving our Board but with a sense of joy that she is moving into another phase of her life. The CARP Board gives a heartfelt thanks for all of her work over the years and wishes her the best in the years to come."*

*Dr. Garry Corbett, President, Canadian Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (CARP)*

*"Carolyn was primarily responsible for bringing the CVE designation to Canada. Carolyn is NOT afraid of hard work and is always willing to pitch in and do more than her fair share of it \*without complaint\*. While she worked diligently and persistently for the entire Commission, she also volunteered additional time to work as a mentor to me as a new commissioner. Her support and encouragement was invaluable... I feel quite lucky to have been associated with her. She truly is one of a kind... I miss her and her steadying presence on the commission."*

*Danise Basic, Chair, Commission on Certification and Work Adjustment Specialists (CCWAVES)*

After years of hard work and dedication, Carolyn Wheeler, Canada's voice in Vocational Evaluation, retires.

A California native, Carolyn Wheeler began her career as a social worker in Berkeley, California in 1966. Carolyn holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree with honours from Whittier College, and a Social Services Certificate from University of California, Berkeley. So, you ask, how did Carolyn find herself smack dab in the middle of the Canadian Prairies? "Well," she stated, "my husband, after receiving his Ph.D. from Berkeley, accepted a job offer at the University of Saskatchewan and the rest is history." Despite the bitter cold and absence of ocean, Carolyn and her husband settled in Saskatchewan, raised their family and has called Saskatoon home for the past 35 years.

Carolyn's career in rehabilitation spans 30 years predominantly in the area of vocational evaluation. With the exception of a 2 year period of employment with the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission between 1980 and 1982, Carolyn's career unfolded at the Saskatchewan Abilities Council where she was initially employed as a vocational evaluator. Her

leadership and vision, however, saw Carolyn apply her expertise as a manager/supervisor in areas of case management, vocational evaluation and disability management services.

Carolyn's commitment to the field of rehabilitation, specifically vocational evaluation, is evident in her extensive board involvement. Carolyn has been a Canadian Assessment Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Society board member since 1993 during which time she has served as Certification Chair and was instrumental in bringing the Certified Vocational Evaluation (CVE) designation to Canada. As a CAVEWAS board member, Carolyn was also the chair of the By-laws Committee, served on the Registered Vocational Professional (RVP) Committee and was involved in the original planning of University of Calgary vocational evaluation courses offerings.

In 1998, CAVEWAS appointed Carolyn as commissioner to the Commission of Certification and Work Adjustment Specialists (CCWAVES) where she provided a strong voice for vocational evaluators in Canada. Since her CCWAVES involvement in 1999, Carolyn had held various positions including Vice Chair of the Commission, Chair of the Policies and Materials, Ethics and By-laws Committees and has served on the Standards and Credentials Committee.

Carolyn has served on CARP Board since 1999 as CCWAVES Representative and as CCWAVES Commissioner and as a member of the Standards and Credentials and By-laws Committee. She also served on the CARP Executive Committee where her contributions were invaluable in the drafting of the National By-laws and the Memorandum of Agreement with the Societies.

Throughout her career, Carolyn has served as a board member and Education Chair for the Saskatoon Alcoholism Society and Admissions Chair for Cheshire Homes of Saskatoon, an organization that provides assisted living for individuals with severe disabilities.

Carolyn was passionate about her career and while she retired with mixed feelings, she is satisfied with her achievements and is enjoying her retirement. "Helping people see that they have choices" says Carolyn is what gave me the greatest satisfaction in my career. She added "opening doors for people through education, self awareness and empowerment was challenging but rewarding." She described her greatest accomplishments as increasing the professional and comprehensive services being provided by the vocational evaluation unit at the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and her involvement in the vocational evaluation certification movement in Canada.

Retirement, says Carolyn, provides me with the opportunity to do all those things I never had time to do when I was working. She's taking care of herself through yoga and exercise. She "has been working on learning how to relax" and now spends her days reading, doing household projects such as refinishing furniture, golfing, cooking, growing flowers from seed, traveling and most importantly, spending time with her grandchildren.

Carolyn is one of three recipients of the prestigious CARP Fellowship award for her unending contributions to the field of vocational evaluation and rehabilitation in Canada. Thanks Carolyn, you have been a devoted colleague and mentor who will be greatly missed.