

Alumni Profile

Nancy Sutherland

BA '85 Psychology

Current Career

Organization: Sunshine Foundation of Canada

Title: Executive Director and CEO

Career Overview

As a CEO, I have the privilege of working with program staff who work directly with children to figure out what impactful experiences are going to help them develop their sense of self. I also spend quite a bit of my time working with the volunteer Board of Directors. My typical day involves leadership; primarily working with my senior staff and Board in setting the strategic vision. I spend most of my day raising funds and administering the funds in the program.

I worked with young offenders after I graduated for a number of years. I had a difficult time adjusting to the shift work so I started looking for something that was transferable. In the early 90s HR was developing as a profession. I wound up in recruiting and behavioral assessments and I built my career on Human Resources in the private sector primarily.

Ten years ago I was a volunteer with the Sunshine Foundation of Canada on their Board of Directors. The position of Executive Director CEO opened up on an interim basis and that led to a permanent position.

How did King's prepare you for your current role?

I am a huge advocate of a Liberal arts education. It allows you to have a foundation and then you can go in different directions. My career path evolved over time but it's always connected to people, whether it was youth, adults or now children. It's always been the DNA of my career.

Why Psychology?

In first year I decided to take five courses that were different because I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I took Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Political Science and Math. In retrospect, it was a really good decision. I fell in love with my first-year psychology class, so I decided to pursue a Psychology Major.

What advice would you give to current students?

If you're not entirely sure where you want to go [with your career], I think it's really good to come to King's and figure it out. With a liberal arts degree you're exposed to many different areas of learning. Then as you develop your career you have all kinds of things to draw upon that you didn't even realize at the time.



“ I am an advocate of liberal arts education and I believe strongly in King's. ”