



Audrey Jolayne King

March 16, 2025

Audrey Jolayne King, born February 15, 1943, passed peacefully on March 16, 2025, at the age of 82. Audrey had taken ill a few days earlier and was lovingly cared for in hospital by her family and personal attendants. Audrey was the daughter of the late Herbert and Maisie King (nee Ramsay) and sister-in-law of Louise King. Her memory will live on in her nieces and their spouses: Lynda & David King, Carole Anne & Derek Zibin, Veronica & Dale Albers, Brandi & Andrew Pigou, Karen & Daniel Wheeler, and John Lee. As well, she will be missed by their children: Elyse & Lauren King; John, Niki & Jacob Zibin; Alex, Preston and Cyrus Albers; Ethan and Gracie Pigou; Lily Wheeler; Tyler, Owen & Kaleb Lee. She was predeceased by her siblings, Errol King, Karen May King, Barbara & Sandy Wood, and her niece Chantell Wood-Lee.

In all aspects of life, Audrey was one to lead change. She had a wonderful 30-year career as a psychologist at Hugh MacMillan Rehabilitation Centre. During retirement, Audrey was dedicated to support different causes and organizations. Her impact was felt locally and abroad where she was invited to speak, teach, write, and advocate on issues related to independent living. Outside of work she was an accomplished artist, writer, mentor, world traveller, and lifelong student. She regularly attended the Donway Covenant Church and her spiritual connection with that community.

Audrey deeply appreciated her countless personal attendants who, over the years, have respected her independence while providing the personal care

and support she needed in a dignified way. Their caring was instrumental to everything she accomplished.

Audrey will best be remembered for her fierce devotion and generosity towards family and friends. She was happiest when she was surrounded by those she cared about and never limited her definition of family to those tied by blood. She valued everyone and made it a priority to include close friends in every family celebration. She was always immensely grateful to those who reciprocated that friendship and love. As our Aunt, Audrey loved to dote on us and led us through many wonderful adventures. She was our greatest cheerleader and taught us to give life our all.

To quote Audrey, "Life is a gift. It is tough at times but.... stay on the roller coaster. The world needs the perspective and gifts that each of us have to offer."

A celebration of life will be held in her honour. The date and location, to be confirmed. To honour Audrey's wishes, those attending the Celebration of Life are asked to wear "their brightest and most optimistic clothes and/or jewelry which has some significant memory attached to it."

Tribute Wall

“ It is with great sadness that Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) shares the mourning of Audrey King, our dear board member, friend and colleague on March 16, 2025. Audrey was a tireless, life-long disability advocate who had a deep empathy for all people with disabilities, especially people with severe disabilities affecting their speech. As an active board member of CDAC since 2017, Audrey guided our organization in ways to promote communication access and protect the rights of people who use ways other than speech to communicate.

At one time when she, herself was experiencing a period of time of being non-verbal due to a tracheostomy, Lynnette Norris (fellow CDAC board member) and I visited her in hospital. Audrey used her ipad and a boogie board (similar to a white board) to communicate and told us about her frustrating experience trying to communicate with healthcare providers. She told us that she would not have survived being in hospital without her personal attendant being there to advocate on her behalf, and to ensure that healthcare professionals directed questions directly to her and not to her attendant. I asked her if she had a message for Ontario’s Health Care Standards Committee, a committee established to develop standards to make healthcare services accessible to people with disabilities. Audrey wrote “ Communication is as important as breathing So much work needs to be done to educate healthcare professionals to know how to respectfully communicate with us and to ensure we have the communication tools and supports we need to interact with them in these critical situations”.

Wise words from Audrey. We hope your words will be heard and acted upon by provincial and federal accessibility groups.

Barbara Collier
Executive Director
Communication Disabilities Access Canada

PS

“ This tribute posted today, March 25, on my LWD website. <https://living-with-dignity.ca/2025/03/25/remembering-audrey-king/>

Patricia Seeley - March 25, 2025 at 05:37 PM

LH

“ A long life well-lived makes the loss no less acute. Audrey was a woman of conviction, purpose and determination. Most of all, she was a caring friend. My thoughts are with you all.

Lynelle Hamilton - March 20, 2025 at 06:06 PM

DS

Audrey and I go back a long way when she went to the Aberhart Hospital in Edmonton , Alberta in yet another mission- to learn all about nasal mask ventilation. At once she developed a bond with everyone on the long term ventilation support unit. She made friends with all of the post polio people that were there. Although she was there to bring home new respiratory support methods she gave a lot to everyone there. She inspired independence and a positive outlook every day. She did this world wide at her numerous conferences and so Audrey , my friend , you will live always in our hearts! Thank you for being so you and being such a fun loving and adventurous friend over the years! Love and miss you. Darlene Steljes Edmonton RT.

Darlene Steljes - March 21, 2025 at 03:46 PM