

Karen Holton BSW

Credentials:

I have a bachelor degree with distinction, in Social Work from the University of Victoria, and a Diploma in Women's Studies from North Island College. My education and experience qualify me as an addiction therapist, counselor and lifestyle coach.

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that explores sociology, psychology, anthropology, media, and history, in order to research and critique societal norms of gender, race, class, sexuality, and other social inequalities.



Tanis Doe BA MSW PHD
Senior Instructor, School of Social Work
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700
Victoria BC
V8W 2Y2

Phone: (250) 386-9712

Re: Karen Holton

Karen Holton was a fourth year social work student last year when she took a course I teach at the University of Victoria. The course is an Introduction to Disability Studies and Karen was an active participant in both large and small groups. Her willingness to share, to learn and to be open to new ideas helped her and the other students in the class.

I also got to know Karen because I asked her to help with a book I am writing about studying disability. I wanted a student to write the preface. This was important to me because I wanted students to be connected to the book, not to an unknown famous writer. Using the internet, back and forth, we were able to create a preface that introduces the book and the topic.

I have graded Karen's work several times and was always satisfied but more than that, I am convinced of her willingness to work hard for her goals.

I have not employed her but I would like to recommend her for employment and graduate studies as I feel she is well suited to ongoing challenges.

Tanis Doe: BA MSW PHD

E-mail: t DOE@uvic.ca



NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE

DIPLOMA

*The College Board of Governors, by virtue of the authority vested in it
by the Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology
for the Province of British Columbia
and upon the recommendation of the faculty, awards this diploma to*

Karen M. Holton

in recognition of successful completion of the requirements of the

Women's Studies

*program of studies. Dated this 31st day of May, 2001
at Courtenay, British Columbia.*

Dale
Chair, College Board of Governors

Ken Dwyer
President

J. McLeod
Dean of Instructional Support
and Student Services



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

The Senate of the University of Victoria upon the recommendation of
THE FACULTY OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

admits

Karen Margaret Holton

to the degree of

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK
WITH DISTINCTION**

with all the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of this degree

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

MAY 2004

Sheila Shelton Collier

Registrar



Ron Lou-Poy

Chancellor

Devin

President and Vice-Chancellor

Michael J. Prince

Acting Dean of the Faculty



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**University
of Victoria**

**Faculty of Human and
Social Development**

Office of the Dean

June 8, 2004

Ms. Karen Holton
402-2361 Lam Circle
Victoria, BC V8N 6K8

Dear Ms. Holton:

I have received notification that you have been included on the Dean's List for the 2003 Winter Session. You are among the top 10% of students by graduating GPA from the Faculty of Human and Social Development.

Congratulations on earning this distinction, and my sincere best wishes in your future endeavours.

Yours very truly,

Michael J. Prince, PhD
Acting Dean

/mdc



**University
of Victoria**

Office of the President & Vice-Chancellor

Business & Economics Building Room 454
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Victoria British Columbia V8W 2Y2 Canada
Tel (250) 721 7002, Fax (250) 721 8654
E-mail pres@uvic.ca Web www.uvic.ca/president/

28 June 2004

Karen M Holton
402-2361 Lam Circle
Victoria, BC V8N 6K8

Dear Karen Holton,

On behalf of the Senate of the University of Victoria, I am writing to congratulate you on your graduation.

Graduating with a GPA of 8.07 requires discipline, focus and hard work. I commend you on your commitment to excellence in learning and wish you every success as you apply this discipline to your future goals.

Thank you for choosing the University of Victoria for your undergraduate degree and I hope you will continue to consider yourself a part of the UVic family.

Yours sincerely,

David H. Turpin, PhD, FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor

DHT:slr



InfoLine
1-800-665-2437

WebSite
www.avi.org

email
info@avi.org

September 9, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of KAREN HOLT0N. I have known Karen for over a year in my capacity as the Program Manager of Direct Services for AIDS Vancouver Island. I was her fourth year social work practicum supervisor and have hired her to work in our Positive Wellness Program Drop-In Centre in a casual/on call position.

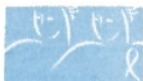
Karen is also active as a volunteer, coordinating our alternative business initiative. She has been instrumental in organizing our first community forum for this endeavour and has put in numerous hours of volunteer work in community development for this innovative project. Without her efforts, this initiative would surely be still at the starting gate and not where it is today.

My experience with Karen in her practicum and as one of my staff is that she is flexible, willing to take on any task, knows her limits and is very capable and creative in her practice. I do not hesitate to recommend her for any scholarship or bursary that will assist her to continue in her studies.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 250-384-2366.

Yours truly,

Garth Greatheart, RSW, MSW
Program Manager of Direct Services
AIDS Vancouver Island



Canadian AIDS Society



United Way
OF GREATER VICTORIA

VICTORIA: 1601 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2J5

(250) 384-2366 FAX (250) 380-9411

NANAIMO: 201 - 55 Victoria Road, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5N9

(250) 753-2437 FAX (250) 753-4595

Terry Dekker
1551 Mallard Drive
Courtenay BC V9N 8J8
(250) 338-1224
E-mail: terrydekker@hotmail.com

July 10, 2002
RE: Karen Holton

To whom it may concern,

Please be advised that I have known Karen Holton since 1996 and have had the pleasure and privilege of working with this dedicated and spirited women on many social issues. Her hard work and commitment were impressive and her efforts helped make the events successful.

Karen has worked tirelessly on issues of community violence, poverty, and legal inequities. She has a keen mind and an enviable ability to look at a situation and see the bigger societal issues that are at work. She has put much of her time and resources into community activism.

At the same time, Karen has struggled against immense obstacles in her personal life. She is a devoted single parent and has used immense creativity and resourcefulness to insure that her children had their needs met when her personal resources were minimal. Karen has always provided a secure and loving home for her children while working to take her family on a path to a better life. She also manages to be a dedicated student who, despite many challenges, is well on her way to obtaining a degree in social work.

I cannot say enough about Karen's personal qualities. She has always demonstrated integrity in her dealings with others. Karen has a keen sense of justice and a commitment to helping others through advocacy and social action. If Karen is involved in a cause, it will be one focused on improving the lives of others.

I realize that it is easy to label people as troublemakers when they stand up for the rights of the marginalized in our society. I hope that I will not have to see this happen to Karen. Our community, indeed our world, is a better place because of her commitment to social justice.

Sincerely,
Terry Dekker.

7/10/02

To whom it may concern:

Karen Holton recently asked me for a letter of reference. I am pleased to provide this letter in response to her request.

Karen was a student at North Island College until last year and in her tenure at the college took every Sociology course I had to offer. Karen was a model student. She participated freely in class discussions and worked hard to produce exceptional written work. Her essays were more often than not miles ahead of her classmates in thoughtfulness and attention to detail. She consistently performed 'A' level work and always ranked in the top percentile in her class. I shouldn't say this, but she was always one of my favourite students.

Karen is a very courageous woman and strong in her convictions. She has long been an advocate of fair treatment for the poor in our society and of people facing the special challenges of growing up with abuse of all kinds or with mental illness, especially people who have no voice of their own. She has every right to be angry given the treatment she has endured over the years, yet she is not angry. Karen can be vociferous, but she is gentle and caring and, in my experience, was always supportive and respectful of her fellow students, her instructors and the college staff.

I am very fond of Karen. She is bright, strong and caring. She is the kind of person I proudly call a friend and (hopefully in the future, when she gets her degree) colleague.

Regards,

Roger Albert
Sociology Instructor
North Island College
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Courtenay, B.C.
email: albert@nic.bc.ca
tel: 250-703-1894