

COMMUNITY

WRC honours first employee

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Jennifer Boudreau is an outreach worker with the Women's Resource Centre and she has her grandmother to thank for that.

Sarah Frances McLean was the first employee at the WRC when it opened its doors in 1981.

There was just Frances and the phone, which didn't work, as it wasn't hooked up.

"Gramma said it snowed and no one showed up at all."

When her husband secured work in Quesnel in 1946, Frances moved with him. Together they raised 12 children and lived in various rural locations around the community.

Jennifer said her grandmother was always a social activist and the work at the WRC was an extension of that.

"She was also instrumental in getting services for those with developmental disabilities."

Frances is also a published author and a member of the local writers group. She was nominated for Citizen of the Year, and in 2006, was a nominee for the Gallery of Honour.

Today, Frances is being



Sarah Frances McLean will be honoured today at the International Women's Tea at the WRC from 3 to 5 p.m.

Photo contributed

honoured on International Women's Day for her role in securing services for women in the community.

She is seen as a woman of integrity and a role model for other women.

"For me, I see her as my role model in how I conduct my interactions with women in the community, treating all people with respect and valuing each person's story. This is based on what my gramma has taught me about people."

It is fitting, Jennifer said, that 25 years later, because of the work

Frances did, "I am working here, able to follow her lead in providing services to women."

As well as being honoured at the tea, which is being held between 3 and 5 p.m. at the WRC, a flower garden in her name will be planted this spring.

"There will have to be roses in the garden, they're my gramma's favourite."

Jennifer said Frances' positive outlook on life has influenced her.

"She inspires me to be a better person just by her presence and her positive philosophy."