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**Province of  
British Columbia  
Legislative Assembly**



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June 27, 2011

Dr. John Conway  
Chair, Friends of May Gutteridge Committee  
4345 Locarno Crescent  
Vancouver, BC V6R 1G2

Dear Dr. Conway,

On May 12, I was given time to make a Private Members' Statement to mark the occasion of the May 14 "A Day in May for Mrs. G" event. Please find enclosed the Hansard transcript, for the Centre's records. As you requested, there are 4 copies enclosed.

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to join you for the May 14<sup>th</sup> celebration of May Gutteridge's life and achievements. Thanks to you and to the members of the Committee for volunteering your time to organize a celebration of such a lovely person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Kwan".

Jenny Kwan, MLA  
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant



Third Session, 39th Parliament

OFFICIAL REPORT OF

DEBATES OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(HANSARD)

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Afternoon Sitting

Volume 21, Number 9

Statements  
(Standing Order 25B)

MAY GUTTERIDGE AND  
ST. JAMES COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY

Jenny Wai Ching Kwan, MLA,  
Vancouver–Mount Pleasant

**Statements  
(Standing Order 25B)**

**MAY GUTTERIDGE AND  
ST. JAMES COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY**

**J. Kwan:** On Saturday, May 14, people will gather in the parish hall at St. James Church on East Cordova Street to celebrate the life of May Gutteridge, an event called a Day in May for Mrs. G.

May was born on May 21, 1917, in England. She was dressed in her Women's Royal Navy Service uniform when she married Arthur Gutteridge, a school teacher, in 1940. They moved to Saskatchewan in 1955 with their three children, where May joined in a range of community activities. She ran a Scouts troop, was a substitute teacher, developed a kindergarten, supervised a 4-H Club and reopened a school for a group of children who could not get schooling anywhere else.

Three years later the family moved to Vancouver, and May started to worship at St. James Anglican Church. There in the Downtown Eastside she played a leading role in outreach and care for the homeless and the poor.

At first, May looked after seniors in the church's basement. She started St. James service in 1961, a home help program in 1962 and the first shelter for abused women in the Downtown Eastside in 1965.

She also found time to organize free legal aid at the Gastown workshop and a program to help administer the funds of social assistance clients. Later she was involved in setting up housing for seniors and the first freestanding hospice in British Columbia.

This astonishing contribution to the community was recognized. May received the Order of Canada, the B.C. senior citizen of the year award, the Silver Eagle Feather Award and the Pioneer Award. She also received awards from Chinatown organizations and an honorary doctorate of laws from Simon Fraser University.

When May died on February 26, 2002, St. James Community Service Society was a large social service agency with 250 employees and an annual budget of \$10 million. She never received an income for her many years of service.

I am one of the many people who admired the passion of May's commitment to serving the residents of the Downtown Eastside and regret that I'm unable to attend the event. I ask all members of the House to please join me in honouring her.