

# Through the Nurses' Lens

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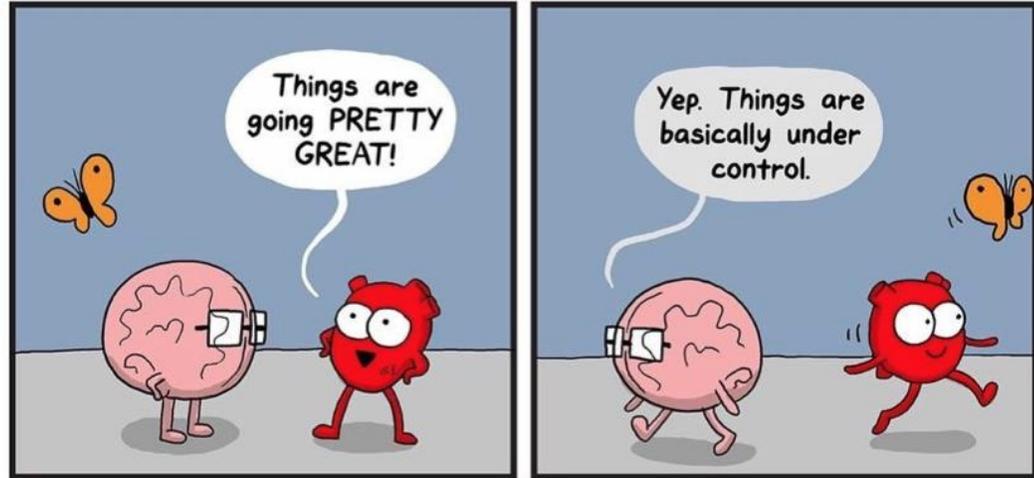
DOUGLASCOLLEGE

# Global Conference on Person-Centred Care



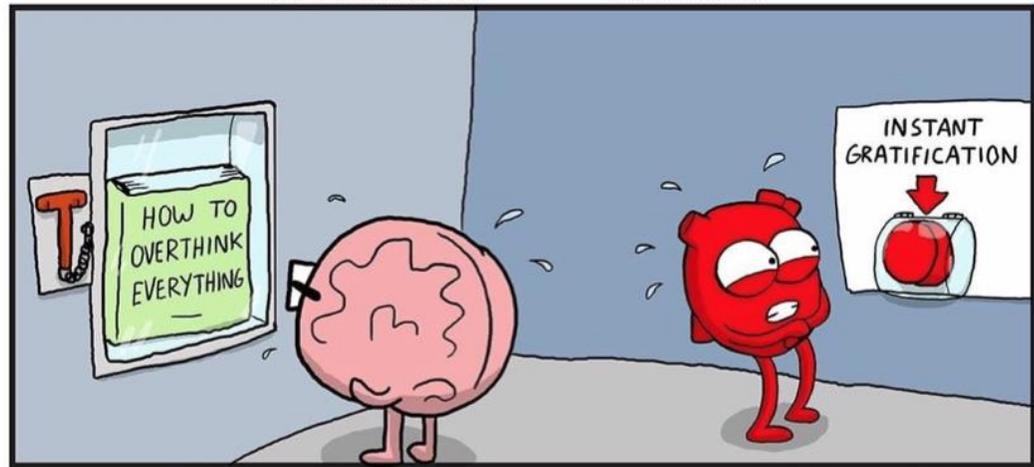
How you want to be treated.

# WHY USE ART?



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ART  
ALLOWS FOR  
EMOTIONS TO BE  
DRAWN.  
INFORMATION IS  
SHARED IN FEWER  
WORDS –  
HEALTH LITERACY

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Has to potential to transform education for  
healthcare professionals (impact on students) and for  
patients and families (health literacy)

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In Canada, Almost 90% of older adults have low  
health literacy

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Up to 80% of patients forget what their doctor tells  
them as soon as they leave the office

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Nearly 50% of what they do remember is recalled  
incorrectly

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Adding pictures (ANY FORM OF ART) to text  
materials can result in up to 40% more patients  
understanding the health information than text alone



**PHOTOVOICE** IS A PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH METHODOLOGY CREATED BY CAROLINE WANG AND MARY ANN BURRIS IN THE EARLY 1990'S WHERE "PEOPLE CAN IDENTIFY, REPRESENT, AND ENHANCE THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH A SPECIFIC PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE" (WANG & BURRIS, 1997, P. 369).

PHOTOVOICE PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CREATIVELY DOCUMENT THEIR CONCERNS AND SIMULTANEOUSLY ACT AS "CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE" (P. 369).



## GOALS OF PHOTOVOICE

### **Three Main Goals of Photovoice:**

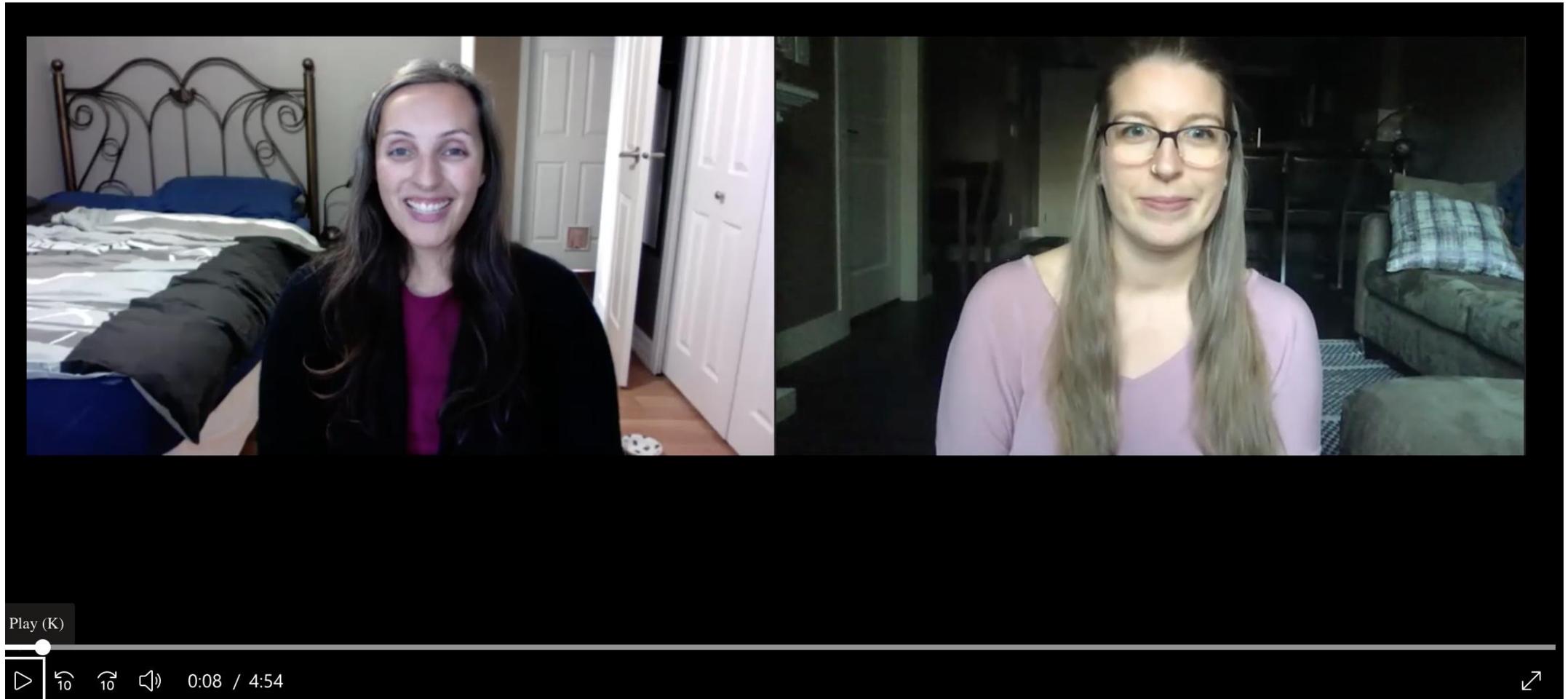
- To enable people to record and reflect their community strengths and concerns.
- To promote critical dialogue and knowledge about important issues through large and small group discussions of photographs.
- To reach policy makers and encourage the adoption of health promoting policies.

Working with  
our Nurses  
who were the  
artists

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# Working with our Nurses who were the artists



# How to support the Nurses in their Photography



The experience of loss and grief.



"The power of hope" - a photo that represents growth out of adversity

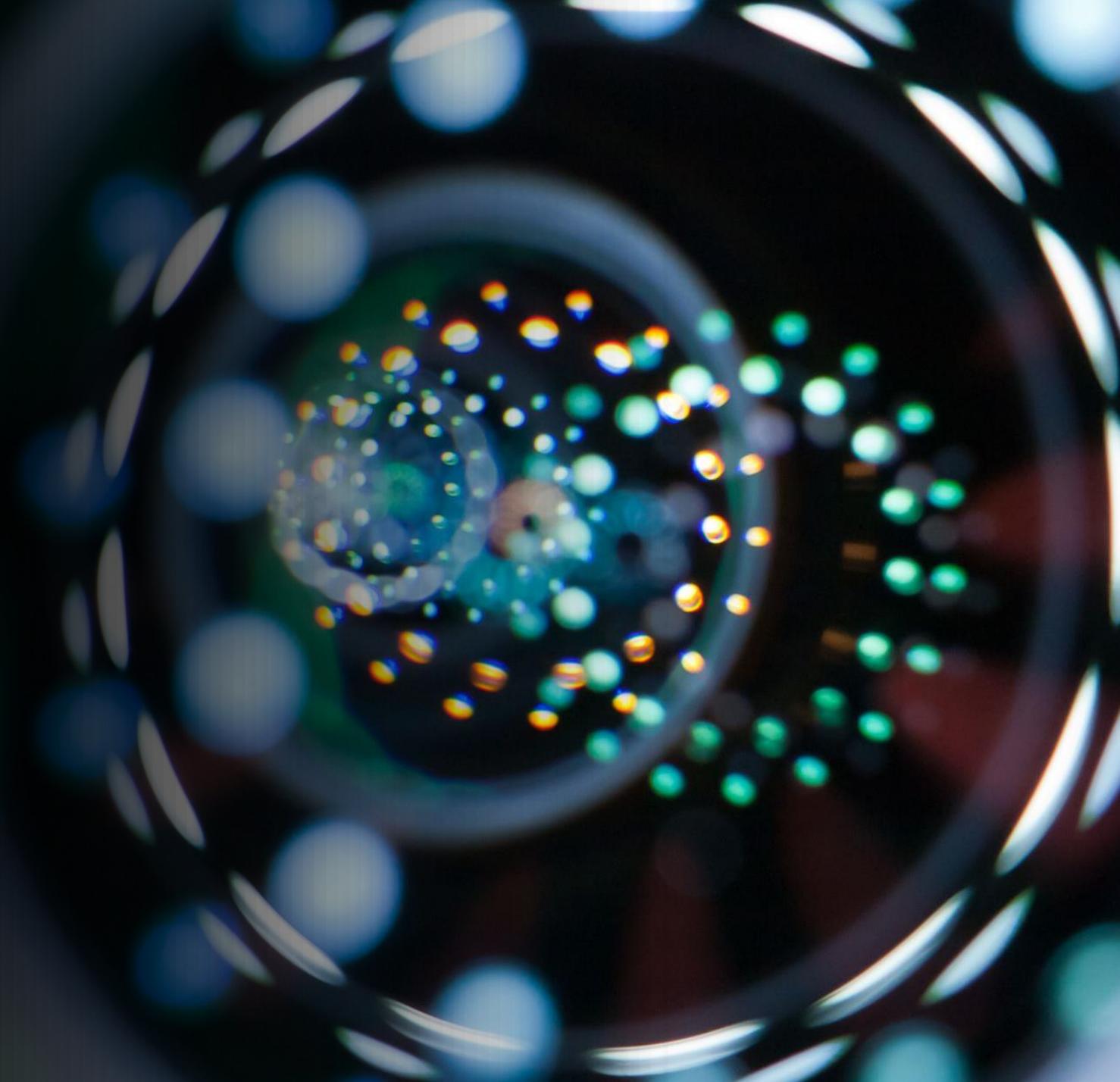


Week 3 Photo tips



# What was captured behind the lens

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| A few  
photos of  
impact





# Stories and Photos are Memorable

"We need the stories that can't be forgotten; we need the data that can't be ignored."

-- Dr. Nadine Caron,  
UNBC



# Illuminating the experience of nurses

## Five Themes:

- The Work of Nursing
- Miscommunication
- Fatigue
- Resilience
- Hope for the Future



# We created a website

Nurses' stories through photos

[Nurses' Voices](#) [Learn More](#) [Publications](#)



*Here we showcase the lived experiences of frontline nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic as told by nurses through photos, reflection, and group discussions.*

# Giving an expanded voice to our nurse participants



LOGIN

HOME PROGRAMME ▾ HELP ▾ select language ▾ 🔍

## Using Photovoice to capture nurses' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic

Subtheme  
*Emotional Labour*

The image displays three photographs related to the subtheme 'Emotional Labour'. The first photo shows a close-up of a person's arm being held by a hand in a blue nitrile glove. The second photo is a portrait of a woman in a white nurse's uniform looking directly at the camera. The third photo shows a woman wearing a blue surgical mask and a red heart sticker on her chest, looking towards the camera. A small video feed of a person is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide.

BC NURSES' UNION  
Standing up for health care.

SPRING 2021

# UPDATE

MAGAZINE

The magazine cover features a central collage of circular images. These include a nurse in a white coat, a person in a blue mask, a sunset over water, a person in a white coat, and various other scenes related to the pandemic. The text on the cover includes the title 'UPDATE MAGAZINE', the issue date 'SPRING 2021', and the BC Nurses' Union logo.

**WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS**  
'Photovoice' research explores nurses' lived experience of the COVID-19 pandemic

**THE LONG HAUL**  
COVID-19's LIFE-CHANGING CONSEQUENCES

**PLUS**  
**PULL-OUT**  
BCNU POSITION STATEMENT ON VACCINATION

**PHARMACARE** NURSES PUSH FOR A NATIONAL PLAN | **READY TO ROLL** RETIRED MEMBERS SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINATION EFFORT | **OPIOID CRISIS** TOXIC SUPPLY CONTINUES TO FUEL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

# Using the photos to educate

- Presentations and reports to Ministry of Health, professional associations, nursing practice councils, and more
- Efforts at ministry level and organization level to recruit and retain nurses



# Publication shared the stories further



Original Qualitative Research Report

## Photovoice Exploration of Frontline Nurses' Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Research  
1–9  
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### Abstract

**Background:** The current COVID-19 global pandemic has had a profound impact on the health care system and on the physical and psychological well-being of nurses. Previous pandemics have led to nurses leaving the profession. Therefore, it is important that we hear the voices of nurses who experienced the pandemic on the frontlines to influence future planning and policy development.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to explore frontline nurses' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic through photos, narratives, and group discussions.

**Methods:** Twelve nurses in two groups shared their lived experiences through Photovoice, a participatory action approach. Photos and narratives were collected over five weeks per group. One group at the beginning of the pandemic and the other group six months later. Focus group discussions were held following each group.

**Results:** Five themes emerged from the photovoice data: (1) The work of nursing; (2) Miscommunication; (3) Fatigue; (4) Resilience; and (5) Hope for the future. Various subthemes were noted within each theme to delineate the lived experience of frontlines nurses working in the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Conclusions:** The voices of nurses and their experiences on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic need to be considered in pandemic planning and integrated into health care policy, guidelines, and structural changes.

### Keywords

Photovoice, COVID-19, nurses, lived-experience

# We sent messages to leaders of nursing organizations, and we heard back!



A LETTER SENT ON BEHALF OF THE  
PROVINCIAL NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH COUNCIL

September 28, 2021

"As noted in your report, the experiences of nurses during the pandemic have given them a unique understanding and expertise in pandemic preparedness and healthier workplaces. We have forwarded your report to Ministry of Health executive to help inform their discussions on health workforce planning and improvements to workplaces in the health system."



## Motivating change: Recommendations

- Nurses can influence policy changes: “That’s the reason I participated in this research.”
- Safe staffing levels: “We don’t want working short premiums, we would rather be fully staffed.”
- Better pandemic planning for the future
- COVID-19 vaccine gives "light at the end of the tunnel"

# Questions

**Feel free to email me**

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**What projects in your area  
could benefit from an arts-  
based approach?**