

COVID/CONNECTION/COMPASSION

Interviewee: Marise Okruhlica (student from 1975-1981):

NVMA #201-90

Date Recorded: 11 September 2020

Interviewer name: Eric Jamieson

EJ: What do you want future generations to know about the fourth Lynn Valley School?

MO: I want them to know that it's so much about community - being in the community, going to school in the community, connecting with people that live in your neighbourhood. That's the special part about Lynn Valley School and growing up in that area. The world changes but I think that that sense of community is so important to keep. Because, y'know, here we are in COVID and it's the social connection I think that a lot of people who are suffering what they're missing is that connection. Y'know, you can Zoom call, you can talk to your friends on video but it's not the same as a hug or a touch or getting in a car beside someone and going somewhere. Even going in the grocery store and actually stopping and having a conversation without being afraid of getting a superbug. So I think just the social connection is so important.

And I think, just from my experience growing up, is that no matter what is going on with different situations at school whether it's bullying or racism, I think it's so important they know it's existed for me since I was a young child but it still exists. And we still have to, I think, as a community just be kind to that person who we have interactions with no matter what the situation, even if it's an accelerated situation, because everyone is coming from such different walks of life and we're coming together. And if we don't treat our neighbour with kindness and compassion then we won't have communities anymore like Lynn Valley.