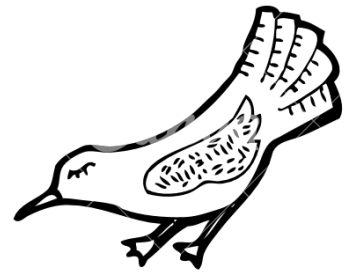


IN MEMORIAM

MERLE YOUNG



On March 7th, 2017, we lost a dear colleague and friend. Merle Young was the Manager of Finance at the Laidlaw Foundation from 2001-2012, a job title that hardly captures the essential role she played bringing our team together, ensuring our operations ran smoothly and championing of our work.

In my early years with the Foundation, Merle was my rock, someone I learned from and leaned on. Merle had a chair in her office that in any other context was an ordinary office chair. But for us, it was the place we came to sit, to pause, to laugh, to vent. Merle's door was always open and this chair was always free.

A daily ritual in our office was meeting in the kitchen, as Merle slowly and with intention, cut apples, banana bread or muffins into bit sized pieces, to then offer up to share. She taught me that it was a red-tailed hawk circling our office and that there were turkey vultures roosting on a building nearby. And the views from our building took on new wonder through her eyes. She took her time, and relished moments. And this brought calm to all of us.

I found a kindred soul with Merle, someone who loved apples, hiking, camping, standing in the warmth of the sun on a winter day as much as me.

I will miss her deeply,

-Ana Skinner-

Requiescat in Pace. May she rest in peace.

Open door. Omnipresent smile. Engaging chit-chat. A woman who was pleasant with a purpose. Great worker. Great team player. A void that can never be filled. Merle the Pearl.

May she rest in peace.

-Jamie Laidlaw-



To honour Merle's memory, The Laidlaw Foundation is making a donation to the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), where Merle volunteered for many years and which meant so much to her.