

Unit 10: Video 1 Transcript

Q1: My name is Megan Davies and I teach at York University. I'm a Historian of Health, and I don't teach in the History department. I teach in a program called Health in Society. And I teach about health generally, and I teach about the patient. I teach about health and place. And really, my research interests reflect my teaching path there. I'm interested in the healthcare system, primarily from a user perspective and I define health quite broadly in terms of my research. So I'm interested in health as sort of an everyday thing, not necessarily something that you'd go to the hospital about. And I'm interested in mental health and I'm interested in old age. I do research on old age, and I do research on BC.

Q2: How would you characterize the history of attitudes and institutions dealing with old age in Canada?

A: In terms of the strategies with which elderly people have dealt with the last portion of their life, in the past our governments have put into place pensions for the elderly, old age pensions. They have created public institutions for the elderly. And elderly people themselves have not just been passive about dealing with old age, just as we see now in our current society. Elderly people in the past had economic strategies, and social strategies, and those involved making use of institutional care, and of pension income, but also more things we might not have thought of. Strategies about taking certain types of work modifications to work they may have done when they were younger. About looking for different living conditions that suited the changing circumstances of old age.