

Hit Hot

Asha: Hey it's your host Asha, welcome to my podcast. You're listening to the first episode of Right Now.

Opening Music

Fade Out Opening Music

Asha: This podcast focuses on relevant subjects, today the topic connects to something I knew I would end up talking about a least once on here. This is a very current event centred podcast, and you may have already guessed I'm gonna be talking about one of the biggest events in the world right now, Coronavirus. But before you stop listening because you've heard enough about this topic, I'm not talking about specifically that. It's actually a story that maybe you haven't heard about. Today I'm talking about Dr. Bonnie Henry, the lead health officer in the province of British Columbia. Who is she? Why should you know about her? Could I argue to you that she is the greatest Canadian? Let's find out.

Black Diamond 2 Keyboard

Asha: If you live in BC, she's probably someone you've seen or heard before. Behind a podium and in front of the provincial flag stands Dr. Bonnie Henry. Her voice reporting the latest information on Covid-19 in BC.

Fade In

I'm Doctor Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia and this is our COVID-19 update.

Asha: While updating the province on important numbers and restrictions, she also reminds us to be calm, be kind, and be safe.

Black Diamond 2 Keyboard Fade Out

Fade In

Be kind, be calm, and stay safe.

Asha: This has become her trademark quote, but much more than that has resonated with people who see her greatness.

Asha: I think the most interesting thing about this story is how when you look at it, it seems like she has been preparing her whole life for the role she is playing today handling coronavirus.

Fade In

Drops of Rain Synth Arp

Asha: She was born in Charlottetown PEI but lived in many places as her father was a major in the Canadian army. From a young age she saw doctors and knew that's what she wanted to do. It's amazing to think she had set this goal so young and now is working in one of the highest roles of public health. Of course she had an education in the medical field, receiving her masters degree in public health at University of California. She went on to gain more experience. She enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy where she served as a medical officer. In the 2000's she was a part of the World Health Organization polio eradication. She was also the associate medical officer of health in Toronto Public Health in 2001, there she led the response to SARS and H1N1. She was an epidemiologist at BC Centre for Disease Control in 2005 to 2007. Now more recently, in February 2018 she was appointed Provincial Health Officer of BC. She was the first woman to take this place. This is still her role today. She is responsible for the measures that are taken to prevent and control public health issues.

Drops of Rain Synth Arp Fade Out

Asha: To go deeper into how Bonnie Henry has impacted people I interviewed Catherine.

Catherine: So my name is Catherine Kelly, I was born in Switzerland. And I've been living in Canada for 30 years, I'm married and I have a daughter in high school and I work as an EA in an elementary school but I'm on leave of absence right now.

Asha: By living, working, and having a family in BC she's been impacted by Bonnie Henry.

Catherine: think she, she have an extensive background and worked as an epidemiologist for many years so I think in a way maybe she is a great Canadian.

Asha: How has she impacted your life?

Catherine: So I think at the beginning of the pandemic like um, she impacted a lot of peoples lives and mine to and I really liked her message. The one was to be calm, be kind, and be safe. And I think also she has a really fast and strict response at the beginning of the pandemic which I think was good. Like she impacted a lot of peoples lives, you know tell them what to do and with her message, she's always been so calm and I think that helps a lot of people because it's kind of a scary time right now but she never seems to be scared but she seems so calm. I think it impacts lots of people.

Hazy Morning Synth Plucks

Asha: She's right, Bonnie Henry's impact was widespread. Throughout BC but also beyond that, setting an example for other places. Right now is a significant time, and Bonnie Henry is a significant part of this time. Her actions today will become a part of history. This impact is not only on Canadians, but Canadian identity. Being kind, being calm, and staying safe, maybe thats a part of what it means to be Canadian.

Asha: Is Dr. Bonnie Henry the greatest Canadian? With her years of experience preparing her for the current issues she faces, and her calm and empathetic way of speaking to those she helps. Her impact on canada. The BC lead heath officer who's been recognized by the New York Times for her handling of the coronavirus. I think you can decide for yourself that Bonnie Henry is the greatest Canadian.

Asha: Thank you for listening, this episode was produced by me Asha Calaminus. All clips of Doctor Bonnie Henry speaking are from the Covid-19 PSA and the Covid-19 briefing on October 26th. If you enjoyed this episode, dont forget to subscribe to see when new episodes come out.