



Tanya Kilborn



1. What professional designations do you have and what school and city did you attend for your lab education? I am an MLT, I went to school at BCIT in Burnaby.
2. After you graduated and started working, what surprised you most about your profession and/or those things that continue to surprise you? How little the nurses know about what we do.
3. Tell us about your BCSLS contributions and experiences? I have been through the presidential chain and I was BCLS Congress chair in 2010. The experience was great and I was able to meet so many great people.
4. Describe what your current role is and what a typical day looks like for you? I am a grade 1 Microbiology tech. A typical day involves reading plates, identifying bacteria, and performing susceptibility testing. There is a lot of interaction with the tech leads and microbiologist.
5. What do you like most about your position? I moved from Histology to Microbiology 3 years ago and it has been a lot of work refreshing. I love pretty much everything in Microbiology and I especially enjoy my workmates. Such a good group of people. I have recently started working on the Dermatophyte bench. Who knew toenail fungus was so much fun!
6. Which career accomplishments are you most proud of? Proud is a strong word but I am happy that I have tried many things that keep me challenged through my 30-year career. From being in charge of small Northern hospital lab just 1.5 years after graduating, moving to a larger hospital working nights, posting into

Histology and finally now Microbiology. I keep having to restart but I think that is what keeps me excited about coming to work each day.

7. What do you like to do in your spare time? I enjoy skiing in the winter and kayaking and paddle boarding in the summer. I also, have a chiweenie that I love to snuggle and walk.
8. If you could go back 20 years to visit yourself, what advice would you give? Don't be afraid to make a change. If you aren't enjoying it, do something different.
9. If you could live anywhere, where would that be? Other than a tropical beach, Kamloops is where I am happy to be. I have friends and family and a great job.
10. What is the funniest thing that has happened to you at work? That is a hard question to answer, so many.
11. What is your favourite holiday/time of year and why? I love the colours and the crisp air of fall.