



## **Dr. Louise Nelson**

### **Recipient of CSM Honorary Membership**

**Louise Nelson** received her BSc (Hons) in Bacteriology and Immunology from the University of Western Ontario in 1972 and her PhD in Microbial Ecology from the University of Calgary in 1976. She held a Killam Postdoctorate Scholarship from the Canada Council in Roger Knowles' laboratory, MacDonald Campus of McGill University (1976-78) and a Rhodes Visiting Fellowship at St. Anne's College, University of Oxford (1978-79) before joining the National Research Council of Canada, Plant Biotechnology Institute (1978-1995) where her research centred on

symbiotic nitrogen fixation, nitrogen cycling soil bacteria and plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria. She served as Manager, Ag Biologicals Research, Agrium Inc. (1995-99) before joining the University of Saskatchewan as Professor and Agri-Food Innovation Fund Chair in Agricultural Biotechnology (1999-2003). Since moving to British Columbia she has held several administrative positions: Vice President Research and Internationalization, Okanagan University College (2004-05); Head, Biology and Physical Geography, University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus (2005-08); Associate Dean, Research, Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan Campus (2008-13); and Acting Associate Dean, Faculty and Academic Planning (2013-15). She was recently appointed Honorary Professor and Professor Emerita at UBC (2019). Her research has continued to focus on plant-microbe interactions, biological control, soil health and nitrogen cycling soil populations.

Dr. Nelson has been an active member of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists for 47 years, serving as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Environmental Microbiology section (1982-86), on the Executive (1986-1990), as Secretary-Treasurer (2006-2009), and on several Award Committees. She became the second female President of the Society in 1988-89. She is also a member of the American Society for Microbiology, the International Society for Microbial Ecology, the International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions, and the Canadian Phytopathological Society. She was a member of the Editorial Board of Applied and Environmental Microbiology (1984-95), a co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Microbiology (1993-98) and several NSERC committees. She served on the Boards of the United Way of Saskatoon, of the Central and South Okanagan/Similkameen and of the United Way of Canada, receiving the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for Service to Canada in 2003 for her contributions to United Way.