

**pERC Member - Patient****Valerie McDonald, MSW**

Valerie McDonald earned her MSW from the University of Toronto and currently works as a free-lance writer, editor and qualitative researcher. She has volunteered in many capacities in the health care sector since 1996 to promote family and patient partnerships and to advocate for more effective palliative care. Ms. McDonald's interest in cancer is deeply personal. Within a five year period, her eldest daughter was treated for Burkitt's Lymphoma, her mother died of lung cancer, and her second daughter died after relapsing on treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. As a writer and researcher, Ms. McDonald has worked on projects with Macaulay Child Development Centre, the Canadian Cancer Society and on initiatives led by the Centre for Effective Practice for the Ontario Ministry of Health, CAMH and Cancer Care Ontario.