



Pat Arato

Founder, Visionary & Mentor

IN MEMORIAM
1938 - 2020

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our founder, friend, and mentor, Patricia Ann Arato, at the age of 81.

When her husband, the late Oscar Arato, suffered a stroke that left him with aphasia, Pat Arato could find no support available for this isolating communication disorder. In 1979, Pat and a few volunteers began working from her basement to create the Speech and Stroke Rehabilitation Centre – the first independent, community-based resource of its kind.

Inspired by beloved stage and screen performer Patricia Neal—also left with aphasia following a stroke—Pat began building what is now the Aphasia Institute, an internationally recognized centre of excellence that in 2019 celebrated its 40th anniversary.

The Aphasia Institute, housing the Pat Arato Aphasia Centre, is Pat's great legacy in helping people with aphasia learn to communicate in new ways and begin to navigate their lives again. Through direct service, education, and research, the Aphasia Institute has opened up the world for people who never imagined they could return to a fulfilling life after aphasia.

The impact of Pat's vision is felt all across the world. As the recipient of the Order of Ontario, Pat's incredible commitment, devotion, and energy will continue to inspire and inform what we do today, tomorrow, and for the future.

Our Aphasia Institute family extends condolences to the Arato family.

