


# *Dorothy Yvonne Cumming* July 15, 1937 - January 17, 2015

## A Loving Mom, An Amazing Mama




The family of Dorothy Cumming wish to announce her peaceful passing at home in Yellowknife early Saturday morning, January 17, 2015, at the age of 77 and a half. Dorothy (Mom, Mama C, and lovingly known as Froggy) was surrounded by her adoring family as she quietly departed this world. We were very fortunate to have her living with us in our home for the past 12 years. It was a gift and an honour to have had all this sacred time with her. Our many beautiful memories of those precious years will help to heal our broken hearts and bring us all comfort.

Dorothy Cumming (Lafferty) was born in Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan to Henry and Marie Lafferty on July 15, 1937. She often spoke of her Mom being her soft place to fall. Dorothy left home at the young age of 15 to attend school in Fort Smith. She had many fond memories of Fort Smith and felt welcomed by the community. It was in Fort Smith that Dorothy met and married the love of her life, Gordon Cumming on May 8, 1956. The Cumming family, especially Gordon's sisters, treated her like one of their own, and there was a very close and loving lifelong bond which serves as a good example to our family's younger generation. Dorothy and Gordon moved to Yellowknife in November of 1963. Together they raised four children in a love filled home, Gordon (Marilyn), Terry (Krista), Shannon (Louise), and Cynthia (Dave).

Dorothy lived a very full and blessed life, even after she developed Alzheimer's in the last part of her life, she faced it head on with dignity, acceptance, love, and her usual "everything's going to be alright" positive attitude. Never questioning "why me?" her belief that life is indeed fair. It was her strong commitment to always putting family first that inspired us to take on her care, and as a family, we never questioned our decision or ability to do whatever was needed for her, because of her love, anything was possible. There was no challenge that we couldn't conquer with her as the center of our family. Dorothy spent a lot of her time at her beloved cabin at Prelude East, sitting around the campfire, listening to CBC Radio, picking cranberries, sharing stories with her grandbabes, enjoying time in the peaceful outdoors, and it was just last spring at the age of almost 77, when Dorothy took her usual skidoo ride with her grandbabes, always making new memories. Her greatest joy in life was becoming a Grandma to her grandbabes: Meaghan, Brendan, Sheldan, Kristan, Rheanne, Jaedhan, Gordon and Jilaine.

Dorothy lived each and every day of her life with amazing grace, a kind-hearted, generous and gentle Mom and Grandma who always thought of others before herself. She had a deep faith, was as good at listening to others as she was at keeping their secrets, community-minded and always preferring to give



big, but quietly, in order to help others. Her sense of humour stayed with her, as did her gentle soul. Her last lesson to us, that life is not always easy or perfect, showed us the importance of living every day to its fullest with a positive and hopeful outlook, to keep hope and keep faith.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Eileen Peters for her guidance throughout the years, and help in Mom's final days. Many thanks as well to Homecare: Laurie Oakes, Karen McCoubrey, and Laura Swanson for their gentle and reassuring visits with Mom's palliative care, especially respecting and helping to grant our wishes that Mom stay at home with us. While it was the hardest moment in our life, it was the most precious, and we will be eternally grateful for that. You are the angels who gently guided us in her last journey.

WE INVITE YOU to join our family for a funeral mass and farewell for Dorothy. Her service will be held at St. Patrick's Church at **1:00 pm on Friday, January 23, 2015**. Interment to follow at Lakeview Cemetery in Yellowknife.

*"Behind all your stories are your Mother's stories, because hers is where yours begins."*