



Tereza Cabral

Born in Niteroi, a nearby town of Rio de Janeiro, into a "chemistry family", Tereza grew up in Rio de Janeiro. She holds three degrees: Chemistry Technician, Pharmacist degree, and a Master's degree in Microbiology.

Despite having family and friends in Brazil, she felt she did not belong to that place. Finding no city that she could call "my land" in Brazil or in Portugal, Tereza finally found the place of her dreams during a trip to Canada. It was love at first sight. After retiring from her work teaching Microbiology in a University at Niteroi, she moved with her two children from the "oven" (Rio de Janeiro) to the freezer (Montreal). In 2014, after living for five years in Montreal, she found and moved to Vancouver (her "paradise").

Attracted by the bagpipe tunes at the 2015 St. Patrick Day Parade, she watched Scottish country dancing for the first time. Realizing that it was the dance she was looking for all her life, (she never danced "Samba"), she attended a workshop after the Parade. In January 2016 she joined the Kerrisdale SCD group. It was the "Magic Moment" - she found her "Canadian Family" (as she likes to say to herself). The warm welcome from all made her feel as though she was coming back home. All of them were so friendly. Some became her best friends. This SCD class was taught by two teachers. After being warmly welcomed by Cathrine Conings outside the classroom, she was introduced by her to the other teacher. Drew Simpson gently greeted her by saying the only word in Portuguese he knew - "Chave", which means key in Portuguese. It was the key she was looking for since she was a child. Drew became her dearest friend, introducing her to many other Scottish country dancers, to his family and friends, to the Scottish songs, showed her all of the city, let her know that he was proud of her SCD learning, and shared with her many moments of his daily life. She keeps Drew forever in a very special place of her heart.

After starting dancing at the RSCDS Vancouver Branch, she joined other SCD groups and made dear friends among all. Some of her best friends are long-time Scottish country dancers. Thus, she was introduced by Drew and by her other friends from the SCD to many groups: Vancouver Mycological Society, Alpine Garden Club of BC, Nature Vancouver (with special emphasis on the birds) and, Dogwood Canoe and Kayak Club. She is also learning Greek Dance at the Hellenic Community of Vancouver. She replaced Drew as a volunteer at the Rogue Folk Club and she is trying to learn the Tin Whistle.

About the "Key"... Well, it opened to her a "Canadian world" full of dear friends.

Tereza is very touched to be asked to be part of the Board of Directors of the RSCDS Vancouver Branch.