

## *Synthesis Fund*

### **PEI Well Women's Clinics: A Case Study of Gender Specific Clinics to Increasing Screening Rates**

The paper will be used as a background to support new health policies related to different interventions that can be utilized to increase health screening methods for gender specific conditions, cervical cancer or prostate cancer, for example, two diseases that respond well to early detection.

### **Gender Planning and Gender Mainstreaming**

Poor theoretical understanding of key concepts and terms can be a barrier to effective gender mainstreaming and thus to gender planning. Similarly, inadequate conceptual development of the goals will effect the application and anticipated outcomes of these initiatives. Hence, this paper will aid in the development of a conceptual framework for mainstreaming gender issues and perspectives in health-related policies. The focus of this paper will be on gender mainstreaming, what it means and where such initiatives may lead.

### **Creating Association Guidelines for the MCEWH**

This paper has been prepared to initiate discussion of the role of industry support in the work of the Centres of Excellence for Women's Health Program (CEWHP). CEWHP, like other not-for-profit organizations, must address challenges of reduced government funding and the maximization of their resources. One option is the creation of relationships with for-profit corporations, where companies act as donors, sponsors, or partners in joint efforts. Before entering such relationships, not-for-profits must evaluate their impact on the organization's mission, existing sector partners and collaborators, and internal culture.

### **Social Reform Scan-Privatization in Health Reform From Women's Perspectives: Research, Policy and Responses**

This synthesis paper will summarize the results of a regional literature scan conducted as part of a CEWHP national project. The purpose of this working paper is to review existing documentation on the effects of health reform on women, identify key figures in research and reform, identify problems/gaps in research and policy, and make recommendations for policy

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goals/research objectives.

### **Response to Health Protection Branch Discussion Papers**

A response to the Health Protection Branch transition prepared by the MCEWH. This discussion paper identifies 8 inter-related areas of concern: gender equity analysis, setting the agenda, process, conception of health, risk, autonomy, preserving the social fabric, and addressing ethical questions.

### **For Love or Money - Women's Health Survey**

The Committee on Women's Work, Empowerment, Caregiving and Health Status will develop a grant proposal for a survey on women, caregiving and health status. Survey design, collection and development will include consultation and focus groups with priority groups of Nova Scotian women (including women living on/off reserves, women of colour, women living with disabilities, lesbians, and women living in poverty, etc.).

### **Including Black Women In Health And Social Policy And Development: Winning Over Addictions: Empowering Black Mothers With Addictions to Overcome Triple Jeopardy**

This participatory action research is designed as a pilot project, to begin a process of inquiry into a critical social issue that is quickly becoming a social phenomena that is out of control. The social issue is drug use, more specifically crack cocaine addiction and abuse in the African Nova Scotian community. Whilst the increase in use of crack cocaine in the African Nova Scotian community has received little public attention, it is a major concern within the community itself. Of particular concern to the researcher, as a social work educator and practitioner, is the effect of this drug on the stability of families and children.

## *Project Fund*

### **An Exploration Of The Stress Experience Of Mi'maq Female Youth In NS**

The purpose of this project is to deepen our understanding of what lies behind the stress experience of Mi'kmaq female youth with an eye to policy and program intervention.

by stress experience, we mean the differential physical (e.g., overweight, substance use), mental (e.g., depression, self-esteem), and emotional health (social relationships) stressors confronted by Mi'kmaq female youth in comparison to other female youth or male Mi'kmaq youth.

### **Towards Non-Hetero-Sexist Policy and Regulation In Health And Income Security agencies**

Health and social security agencies have policies and regulations which are generally based in heterosexist assumptions about the nature of family relationships. This action research project uses electronic communication technologies to develop tools through which health and social security agencies and practitioners can assess and correct the heterosexist bias in their programmes and activities. This project uses a home page and list serve address to address this issue in the context of being lesbian in rural Newfoundland, and facilitates safe participation by all interested members of the community. The tools and model policies developed in this project can be used in quality assurance, total quality management, accreditation and collective bargaining. The model using electronic communication technologies can be adapted for use with other marginalized groups in other settings.

### **A Gender Equity Lens For The Health Policy Domain - A Canadian Gender Curriculum Educational Strategy**

The adoption of gender-based ideas and practices by policy makers, public servants and officials requires a flexible approach, enabling participants to adapt the gender analysis protocols to their respective work environments. To ensure the adoption and adaptation of gender-based protocols within the public sector, the curriculum will address the three learning domains: cognitive (knowledge gain); affective (attitudinal change); and, behavior (skill development). The purpose of this phase in the development of a Canadian Curriculum, therefore, is to enhance awareness and sensitivity of gender as a determinant of health, and demonstrate capacity to implement it as an underlying component of public policy. This study will use the curriculum development process to explore the relative benefits and disadvantages of each conceptual frame - Gender-Based Analysis, Gender Equity Lens, and Diversity. However, because the equity approach begins from the assumption that inequities exist, and the policy outcome or target is to eliminate inequities, the study will lean towards prominence of the gender to equity lens approach and the diverse populations captured by such a lens or approach.

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## *Project Development*

### **Gender Equity Policy Case Studies**

This project development initiative hired a research assistant to conduct key informant interviews with policy analysts working to develop and mainstream gender analysis into programming and policies. These case studies contributed to the paper, "Lessons from the Field."

### **Gender Equity Lens**

This budget is to further support MCEWH gender equity lens work. See 1997/98 funded projects.

### **Women's Health Connections**

This project development initiative hired a consultant to work with MCEWH, the Women's Health Program, IWK Grace; and NS Women's Centres CONNECT! to develop a proposal submission for the Health Infrastructure Support Program, and propose and design a Women's Health Connections (WHC) demonstration project using the Nova Scotia TeleHealth Network during its down time.

### **Gender Equity Lens Stage II Proposal: Mainstreaming Gender**

This project development initiative hired a consultant to work with MCEWH and the GEL team to develop and design a proposal for the Research Uptake theme of the October 1998 NHRDP competition. The proposal was entitled, "Understanding and Promoting the Transfer and Uptake of Gender Analysis in Health Policy".

### **Social & Economic Inclusion of Women, Children, Families**

This project development initiative hired a consultant to prepare a proposal submission to Health Canada (Atlantic) Population Health Fund. The proposal submitted was entitled, "Looking Forward or Turning Back: The Social and Economic Inclusion of Women, Children, Families and Communities in Atlantic Canada". The proposal has led to a number of

initiatives managed by the MCEWH, and will potentially lead to several new

knowledge development papers around the topic of Social and Economic Inclusion in Atlantic Canada.

### **Gender Equity Analysis Methodologies**

This project development initiative drafted discussion papers on gender equity analysis conceptual and operational issues. The discussion paper compare gender equity analysis methodologies with health impact assessment frameworks.

### **Policy Implications for Gender Perspectives on the Determinants of Health**

The purpose of this project development initiative is to develop a discussion paper on the gender dimensions of the determinants of health. This paper will be added to the MCEWH's Policy Discussion Series and builds on work completed by a Centres of Excellence for Women's Health national discussion group on the determinants of health.

### **Black Women's Health Research: Policy Implications**

This small project development initiative hired a consultant from the black women's community to address the lack of research on the health care of Black Nova Scotian women. The objective of the project was to identify health care needs of black women for the IWK Grace Health Centre's Women's Health Program.

### **A Women's Survival Guide to the Poor Economy**

Using participatory research with women at foodbanks, resource centres, community centres, and women living in poverty found through friends and professional contacts to research, write and illustrate a 120 page handbook on how to maintain health and happiness by actively tackling poverty and dealing with current social assistance issues.

## *Graduate Student Awards*

### **In An Authoritative Voice: Women And The politics of Health Policy in New Brunswick**

"In an Authoritative Voice" is a graduate student's thesis project that is

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concerned with health policy formulation and implementation during the current era of neo-liberal economic restructuring. To offer strategies to harness the productive opportunities offered by the intersection of restructuring, health policy and women, the researcher will critically analyze the process of restructuring in New Brunswick so as to further our understanding of the forces, ideas and people sharing decisions in the health sector.

### **Pattern Identification and Expansion of Consciousness during the Transition of Low-Risk Pregnancy**

The goal of this qualitative study is to gain a deeper understanding of the transition of low-risk pregnancy so that health care workers can be better prepared to facilitate the transition process. The research will utilize Margaret Newman's innovative nursing theory, Health as Expanding Consciousness, which eliminates the dichotomy between theory and practice.

### **The Relationship between Prescription Drug Utilization and Employment for Single Mothers on Social Assistance**

This graduate student's thesis project, examines how record high levels of unemployment and increased reliance on social assistance, the ultimate aim of welfare policies is to return employable individuals back to work. One of the main barriers to successful employment programs is directly linked to the loss of drug benefits when leaving social assistance.

### **Breaking With Tradition: The Socioeconomics of Osteoporosis**

This interdisciplinary doctoral student's project discusses how few studies have examined how socioeconomic characteristics may increase some women's vulnerability to osteoporosis and its related fractures.

### **Access To the Environment: Exploring Links between the Perception of Access to Ethnomedicine and The Well Being of the Mikmaq Community of Indian Brook, Shubenacadie**

Women in diverse cultures are often under-represented and sometimes disadvantaged. This study will serve as one vehicle that will draw attention to issues related to their well being, in the community of Indian Brook Reserve, Shubenacadie. A co-creation of knowledge of the perceptions of access to ethnomedicines of Mi'kmaq people is the goal of this study. The study is

intended to recognize the validity of Mi'kmaw women's experience and perceptions of their own well being in relation to their accessibility to ethnomedicines. Participatory action research will be utilized in this co-creation of knowledge allowing for both problems and solutions to emerge from the community. It is hoped that a study of this kind may function as a source of background information for appropriate policy input and as a catalyst for further similar studies in other reserves.

### *Community Research Awards*

#### **The Black Women's Health Program**

This research support will enable the Black Women's Health Project to recruit a black women's health researcher or research consultant to undertake a preparatory feasibility study to build on the research conducted to date and to enhance and expand upon, where possible, the existing bibliography development and analysis of secondary data on black women's health. The researcher will compile and collate information, and will prepare a detailed workplan in preparation for the design and development of a Black women's health survey project in 1999 - 2001.

#### **Hearing the Voices of Diverse Women**

This project, pending ethics submission and approval, will conduct focus groups with diverse groups of women about their views on policy and programming changes in Nova Scotia.

#### **Off Reserve Aboriginal Women's Health Assessment**

The current federal policy of devolution of responsibility to the provinces will concurrently occur in Aboriginal communities as self-government and transfer of health jurisdiction becomes a reality in the next few years. The lack of national standards with respect to health, through the CHST, also needs closer examination. If the provinces becomes responsible for health care for urban Aboriginal women, there is a strong possibility that Aboriginal women will be left behind as current health care policy does not reflect the input of Aboriginal women. Most health policy research leaves Aboriginal women out of the equation.

This research will investigate the overall health concerns of Aboriginal women, identify gaps in health care policy, and establish a data base which reflects Aboriginal women's health problems and concerns.

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#### **Equitable Access to Health Care, Promotion and Prevention by Immigrant Women in NS**

In this study, a part-time Research Coordinator with ethnocultural research experience will be recruited to organize meetings and recruit participants with the help of key contact members from the council in an effort to increase equitable access to healthcare. Representatives on the council from the Metropolitan Immigrant Association, and the Immigrant Settlement Association, will voluntarily conduct interviews among non-English speaking immigrants. These interviews will be limited to the languages that council members can speak. Depending upon the women's desire, the Research Coordinator will also conduct interviews among English-speaking participants. The Research Coordinator will help in preparing the interview guide, data analyses, and report writing under the supervision of the researchers and members of the council.

#### **Participatory Action Research with Community Groups on Environmental Health**

Public hearing/workshop to examine what Nova Scotia is doing (or not yet doing) to prevent and treat human exposures to toxic chemicals in our homes, workplaces and the environment-at-large, in light of the exposures from Sydney Tar Ponds and Camp Hill Medical Centre.

#### **Trying To Work it Out: Women Examine the Effects of Workplace Environment and Workplace**

By linking with other community groups in rural Newfoundland and Labrador, the Women's Health Network Newfoundland and Labrador will facilitate the creation of focus groups that will examine the effects of workplace environment and workplace policy on women's health. Women's level of knowledge surrounding their rights as workers, links women make between the work they do and their health, and policies (or lack thereof) that are barriers to health and meaningful participation in the workforce will be identified. This research will also explore the particular needs and concerns of lesbian women, women with disabilities, and single mothers that may not be being addressed by current workplace policies or in the workplace environment.