



The Maritime Centre of Excellence: The Campaign in Women's Health

MCEWH Mission Statement: To promote social change through research on women's health.

Priority Focus for the next 3 years: Women's Social and Economic Security.

The Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health supports policy based research which promotes action on the social and economic factors that affect women's health and well being over the lifespan. The Maritime Centre's program of research is informed primarily by research principles and practices that address social and economic security in the Atlantic region. MCEWH research focuses on the process of inclusion which empowers women to take control of their lives and encourages the development of personal security, support networks and self-reliance that contribute to enhanced health and well being. The Centre has also given priority to research initiatives that focus on the design and implementation of new gender equity lens tools and practices as well as initiatives that address the issues of Black or rural women and caregivers.

The Maritime Centre recognizes that women who live in disadvantaged circumstances, in impoverished families, have a high incidence of illness and disease. By adopting a social determinants population health approach, the Centre acknowledges that poverty has a profound impact upon the health of women and their families. Through its programs of research, the Centre is developing an understanding of the relationship between women's health and poverty and the areas where action and policy reform would be appropriate. By supporting research that focuses on how diverse groups of women have been excluded in health related policy and programming, on the special needs of women, their strategic interests and priorities, the Centre promotes equality, social inclusion, security and health for women over their lifespan.

Collaborative Areas of MCEWH:

Black Women's Health Project: MCEWH is working with the research team of the North End Community Health Centre to develop a proposal to investigate issues surrounding Black Women's Health.

New Brunswick Women's Health Initiative: a needs assessment pilot focusing on women health care consumers, particularly women who live in isolated and low income circumstances.

Projet Shastri: A joint project on Rural Health Care Systems for Women in India, based at the Universite de Montreal.

Health Promotion Atlantic: a newsletter co-publication with Community Health Promotion Network Atlantic and Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre.

Working Together on Women's Health Research: a handbook to help researchers to partner with others in the community, universities, and health services to facilitate research on women's health in partnership with the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre (AHPRC) and Community Health Promotion Network Atlantic (CHPNA) - an exciting new venture in women's health.

MCEWH 1998 FUNDED RESEARCH includes:

- *A Gender Equity Lens For The Policy Evaluation Process*
- *A Qualitative Study Of Rural Women And A Breast Cancer Self-Help Group Via An Audio Teleconferencing Network*
- *Affirming Immigrant Women's Health: Building Inclusive Health Policy*
- *An In-Depth Look At Different Women's Perceptions Of Doctor-Patient Interactions*
- *Assessing The Impact Of Social Reform On Women's Health*
- *Call Centre Tele-Operators: Health Determinants And Quality Of Work Life*
- *Collaborating On Research For Women's Health*
- *Developing Understanding From Young Women's Experiences In Obtaining Sexual Health Services And Related Education In A NS Community*
- *Early Maternity Discharge And Low Income Women: A Grounded Theory Study*
- *Guiding Principles Community Consultation*
- *N.B. Women's Health Initiative Project*
- *Social And Economic Stress And Women's Health In Fishing Communities*
- *The Black Women's Health Project*
- *The Caregivers Research Project*
- *The Health And Economic Implications For Women Of A Federal Home Care Program*
- *The Stories Of Women With Depression*
- *Women Who Choose Midwifery Care In NS: A Retrospective Survey And Selected In-Depth Interviews*
- *Women's Definitions And Priorities Of Health (2 Projects)*
- *Women's Voices: Women's Perceptions Of The Determinants Of Health And Well Being*

Information that can be ordered from MCEWH:

Our Gender and Health Policy Discussion Series includes: *Home Care and Policy: Bringing Gender Into Focus*, and *Health Protection for the 21st Century? A Response from the MCEWH on Health Protection Branch Discussion Papers*.

Visit www.medicine.dal.ca/mcewh for more information about the Maritime Centre, MCEWH publications, MCEWH Listserves, ongoing initiatives and research, relevant announcements and weblinks.

MARITIME CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

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