



Central and Northern Region Data Collection

The IDSN Research Survey ‘Persons with Intellectual Disabilities: A Population at Risk in Nova Scotia’ commenced data collection in the summer of 2009 and will continue until February 2011. We are interested in hearing from adults (19 years of age and older) living with an intellectual disability in the Central and Northern regions of Nova Scotia. Specifically, the survey aims to capture the current and future health and social service needs, as well as their satisfaction with current services. To date, over 120 individuals have participated in the survey. We began surveying again this past August in the Central Region and plan to commence data collection in the Northern Region in November. We continue in our efforts to reach all individuals who are currently receiving services within these regions, as well as those who are on waiting lists, and those who are not accessing services at all.

Thank you to the individuals who have participated in the survey-to-date, as well as the following new agencies and organizations for their help in getting the information about our project out to interested parties: **Corridor Community Options for Adults, Disabled Individuals Alliance, Disability Rights Coalition, Doctors Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Association for Community Living, Prescott Group, Recreation Nova Scotia, TEAM Work Cooperative** as well as numerous **Community Learning Networks/Centres** and **Public Libraries** in the Central Region.

Collaborative Paper



What are the strengths and challenges associated with undertaking collaborative research projects that focus on the health and social service needs of persons with ID?

In the summer of 2010 the IDSN team launched a new project entitled: “**The Qualitative Determinants of the Health and Social Service Needs of Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Three Canadian Regions**”. The purpose of this study is to develop an analysis of the processes that have been involved in developing and implementing the IDSN research alliance project, as well as other similar collaborative research projects conducted across Canada. It is anticipated that this analysis will illuminate some of the key strengths and challenges associated with collecting data on persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Through the use of surveys, this study aims to collect information from 20 – 30 individuals involved in three different research projects located across Canada (i.e., Nova Scotia, South Eastern Ontario, and Manitoba). Data collection commenced in July and will continue until the end of November. While data analysis is ongoing (as surveys are returned), the final analysis and synthesis of the data will occur in December with a report to follow.

Results from this study will help in the development of effective strategies for conducting research with persons with intellectual and / or developmental disability field. Furthermore, engaging the three research groups in this project will lead to a broader understanding of the health and social service needs of persons living with an intellectual disability throughout Canada. In turn, this will support future population-based research on intellectual and / or developmental disabilities.

In the Community

September 10, 2010: Alliance members participated in the **Circle of Friends Recreation and Leisure Expo** held at the Bloomfield Centre. This event was a great opportunity to connect and share information with individuals and organizations within Nova Scotia. *See photo below* ↓



Above L-R: Danielle Poulos (IDSN Project Coordinator), Sherri Costa (Circle of Friends Expo Coordinator), Lauren Crawley (IDSN Research Assistant)

October 1, 2010: Alliance members attended the “**Provincial Forum on Deinstitutionalization—The Right Way**” held at the Ramada Plaza—Park Place Hotel

October 22, 2010: Alliance members participated in the **5th Annual Tools 4 Life Conference** at Horton High School in Greenwich, NS. *See photo at right.* →

November 5 2010: Alliance members will attend **The National Roundtable on the Health of Families of Children with Disabilities** held in Ottawa, Ontario at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

November 12, 2010, 6pm: Alliance members will kick off data collection in the Northern Region at a presentation of the Persons at Risk project at **Summer Street Industries** in New Glasgow.

November 20, 2010, 10am: Alliance members will give a presentation of the Persons at Risk project to the **People First Nova Scotia Halifax group** meeting at the Bloomfield Centre.

December 1 & 2 2010: Alliance members will attend the **3rd Annual Symposium on Inclusive Employment and Education** as part of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the Westin Nova Scotia Hotel in Halifax.



Above L-R: Christen Terakita, Amanda Sibley, Trisha Dempsey, Lauren Crawley, Danielle Poulos, & Dr. Deborah Norris

Community Member Profile

Pam Bateman-Safire, Dartmouth Adult Services Centre, IDSN Data Collector

Pam Bateman-Safire is the Client Services Supervisor at the Dartmouth Adult Services Centre (DASC) where she has worked for the past 9 years. Last year Pam graciously volunteered to take part in the IDSN project as a data collector and has trained other staff as data collectors as well. Pam and other DASC staff members have provided the IDSN team with valuable feedback on administering the survey and have indicated that their experience as data collectors has been extremely positive. Pam believes that having all of the staff trained to administer the survey encouraged clients and families/caregivers to complete the survey with a staff person with whom they felt comfortable.

DASC invited clients, individuals on their waitlist, and recent applicants, to participate in the survey. Individuals who chose to participate completed the survey between June and August of 2009. The data collectors at DASC found that clients, parents and caregivers were very open to the survey and were hopeful that, through this process, some of their present and future concerns would be brought forward. Upon reflecting on her experience with the IDSN project, Pam stated that it was an important and exciting endeavor for DASC staff, clients and their client's families.

Where are they now?



Priscilla Frenette, IDSN Project Assistant Dec. 2008 to Feb. 2010

Priscilla Frenette held the position of Project Assistant on the Alliance from December 2008 to February 2010. During this period her duties included liaising with local service organizations, planning meetings and events, data collection and analysis, and various administrative tasks. A particular highlight for Priscilla was her involvement in the planning of the 2009 Stakeholders Workshop that brought together representatives from organizations across the Central Region.

Priscilla left her position on the IDSN Alliance earlier this year to focus on her studies. She recently completed her Masters degree in Community Health & Epidemiology and is currently enrolled as a first year medical student at Dalhousie University. Priscilla's work with the Alliance enabled her to gain valuable hands-on research experience, to collaborate with established researchers and members of the community, and to learn about challenges currently facing individuals living with intellectual disabilities in Nova Scotia. She is very grateful to IDSN for all of these experiences which will contribute to her development as a future researcher and clinician.



Welcome to New Alliance Members

The Alliance would like to welcome its newest members; **Danielle Poulos, Trisha Dempsey, Lauren Crawley, and Amanda Sibley.**

Danielle Poulos joined the Alliance as project coordinator in June 2010. She holds a BSc in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Kinesiology from Dalhousie University. Danielle's responsibilities include coordinating and overseeing the implementation of all aspects of the IDSN projects as well as seeking and applying for future funding for the project & database.

Trisha Dempsey joined the Alliance as research assistant in July 2010. She holds a bachelor's degree in social anthropology and international development studies and is currently a graduate student in Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University. Trisha is working on the Collaborative project.

Lauren Crawley joined the Alliance as research assistant in August 2010. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and an Honours degree in Child and Youth Study from Mount Saint Vincent University. Lauren is working on the Persons at Risk project and is coordinating data collection in the Central Region.

Amanda Sibley joined the Alliance as a research assistant in October 2010. She is currently completing her degree in Applied Human Nutrition and was recently accepted to the MSVU Integrated Dietetic Internship Program. Amanda is working on the Persons at Risk project and is coordinating data collection in the Northern Region.

Thank You



Thank you to **Mount Saint Vincent University** for their ongoing support of this worthwhile research!

Thank you to **HRSDC!** The Alliance successfully applied for and received funding from HRSDC's Career Focus program. This grant has allowed for the hiring of a full-time research assistant for the quantitative project and will allow the assistant to attend and present at three conferences as well.

Thank you to the **Student Works Program!** The Alliance successfully applied for and received funding through the Mount's Office of Student Experience for the 2010-11 academic year. This funding has allowed for the hiring of an undergraduate student to assist with the quantitative project and allowed the assistant to participate in the *Tools for Life Conference* in Greenwich, Nova Scotia in October.

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who have offered their financial support, in-kind support, assistance, or interest to the Alliance.

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How to Contact Us?

Phone: 902-457-6218
Email: thepowerofknowing@msvu.ca

Mail:
IDSN Research Alliance
c/o Project Coordinator
Nova Scotia Centre on Aging
Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, NS Canada B3M 2J6

Intellectual Disabilities Service Needs Research Alliance

Dr. D. Norris
Principal Investigator
Family Studies & Gerontology,
Mount Saint Vincent University

Dr. K. MacPherson
Co-Principal Investigator
Community Health & Epidemiology
Faculty of Medicine
Dalhousie University

Dr. G. Flowerdew
Co-Investigator
Community Health & Epidemiology
Faculty of Medicine
Dalhousie University

Dr. B. Hennen
Co-Investigator
Department of Family Medicine-
Faculty of Medicine
Dalhousie University

Dr. J. Keefe
Co-Investigator
Maritime Data Centre for Aging
Research & Policy Analysis
Family Studies & Gerontology,
MSVU

Peter Nestman
Population Health Research Unit
Associate Agency
Dalhousie University

Cathy Crouse
Associate

Adele McSorley
Associate

Hilary Amit
Community Partner
Nova Scotia Residential
Agencies Association

John Cox
Community Partner
People First Nova Scotia

Cathy Deagle Gammo
Community Partner
DIRECTIONS Council for
Vocational Services

Suzan Jorgensen
Community Partner
Disability Rights Coalition

Mary Rothman
Community Partner
Nova Scotia Association for
Community Living

Danielle Poulos
Project Coordinator
MSVU

Lauren Crawley
Research Assistant
MSVU

Amanda Sibley
Research Assistant
MSVU

Christen Terakita
Research Assistant
MSVU

Trisha Dempsey
Research Assistant
MSVU