

When Caregiving Results in Involuntary Retirement: Well-being in the Later Years

Summary

This project will explore the specific conditions under which individuals involuntarily retire and how these conditions influence their health. Specifically, this research will look at how caregiving responsibilities lead to involuntary, early retirement and the implications of that for Nova Scotians' attachments to the paid labour force, their ability to plan financially and in other ways for their retirement, and their retirement experiences during the later years. There will be two phases to this project. The first phase will involve secondary data analysis of the 2002 General Social Survey on Social Support and Aging. The second phase will involve in-depth interviews with individuals from across Nova Scotia.

Project Researchers

The principal investigator is Áine Humble, PhD, Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU). Janice Keefe, PhD, MSVU and Greg Auton, MA, Acadia University are co-investigators. This research project has been funded for 3 years (2005-2008) through the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation.

Research Objectives

The specific objectives are:

1. To explore more fully the connection between involuntary retirement, caregiving, and gender.
2. To develop a better picture of the health experiences of retired Nova Scotians who provide informal care under these circumstances.

Research Questions

1. What are the characteristics of Canadians who retire involuntarily for caregiving purposes, and are these characteristics distinct in Atlantic Canada or NS?
2. What characteristics predict who retires involuntarily as a result of caregiving responsibilities, and are these predictors distinct among caregivers in Atlantic Canada?
3. What is the decision-making process that individuals engage in when retiring for caregiving purposes, and what are the consequences of that decision?

Implications and Outcomes

This research will lead to a greater understanding of factors leading to caregivers' involuntary retirement, individuals' retirement experiences under these circumstances, and how gender influences these decisions and related health outcomes. The results of this research will be able to highlight specific health recommendations for provincial policy and education around both caregiving and retirement issues.



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