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NEW STUDY ON NOVA SCOTIA NURSING HOMES

Care and Construction: Assessing Differences in Nursing Home Models of Care on Resident Quality of Life is a multi-disciplinary, multi-sector study which will examine the experiences of nursing homes employing different models of care on resident quality of life from the perspectives of resident, family and staff.

This research is timely and important. The Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness is implementing its Continuing Care Strategy and is considering how best to meet the needs of an aging population which includes expanding long term capacity and innovations in care services. Care model innovations in the sector include changes in how nursing homes are designed and the delivery of direct care services. These changes result in long term care staff providing care differently to older Nova Scotians and this research will explore such differences.

The three-year project is led by Dr. Janice Keefe, Canada Research Chair in Aging and Caregiving Policy and Director, Nova Scotia Centre on Aging, MSVU and involves a team with a diversity of perspectives that include research, practice and policy. Industry leaders from the continuing care sector are members of the team. Researchers represent various disciplines including social work, sociology, family studies, health administration, management, psychology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Members are:

Kevin Kelloway, Saint Mary's University
Margaret McKee, Saint Mary's University
Robin Stadynk, Dalhousie University
David Haardt, Dalhousie University
Grace Warner, Dalhousie University
Marie Earl, Dalhousie University
Melissa Andrew, Dalhousie University
Lori Weeks, University Prince Edward
Island

Ann McInnis, Northwoodcare
John O'Keefe, Northwoodcare
Donna Dill, Dept of Health & Wellness
Debra Boudreau, Tideview Terrace
Sherry Keen, Windsor Elms
Sheila Martin, Duncan MacMillan
Lloyd Brown, Alzheimer Society of NS

The team is supported by representatives from Health Association of Nova Scotia, Shannex, and Alderwood Rest Home. The project demonstrates multi-discipline and multi-sector collaborative research as well as exciting new partnerships among universities.

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Through a series of activities, the project will generate and share evidence to enhance outcomes for residents living in nursing homes. Between 12-15 nursing homes that represent different models of care throughout the province will be involved in the study over the three years. Their involvement includes completing an environment assessment, surveying residents, and hosting focus groups with staff and families. Nursing home staff across the province will have an opportunity to participate in a survey as well. These data will be supplemented by six separate case studies which will link the perspective of resident, his/her family and staff. Workshops to share and discuss the application of results with study participants and sector representatives are planned.

There is, and will be, an increasing demand for continuing care services in Nova Scotia and elsewhere. The evidence generated by this research will help industry leaders develop and enhance care environments that best meet the needs of nursing home residents, their families and staff.

This research is funded through a Partnerships for Health System Improvement Grant, Canadian Institutes of Health Research. For more information, and to obtain regular updates, on the project contact:

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