**Media Advisory**

Nova Scotia Centre on Aging

Mount Saint Vincent University

Halifax, NS - May, 2012

**The Mount’s Nova Scotia Centre on Aging to survey NS nursing homes on resident quality of life**

The Mount’s Nova Scotia Centre on Aging along with several partners is launching important research to inform decision making about nursing home care in Nova Scotia. This research examines resident quality of life in a variety of nursing homes that represent different models of care and physical designs. More than 20 nursing homes from across NS are involved. Three key groups of people are invited to share their opinions on resident quality of life: the residents, family members and staff. This broad based, multi-perspective approach to understanding resident quality of life is the first of its kind in Nova Scotia.

“There is a real gap in knowledge about the outcomes of introducing different models of care and every province across Canada is grappling with the same types of questions – if we’re going to put money into long-term care, we should be investing in the areas that improve resident’s quality of life, but what are these areas and best practices that make a difference?” said Janice Keefe, the study’s Principal Investigator and Director of the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging. “That is why conducting this survey with residents, families and staff is so important, so that the sector can have sound empirical data to support decisions.”

Each week during spring 2012, information sessions about the survey will be held at participating nursing homes. Residents will be able to arrange times with research assistants to go through the survey during these presentations. Family members and staff can complete surveys online, obtain a paper copy from their nursing home or request a copy from the project office. Additionally, staff from other nursing homes across the province can complete the survey online or by requesting a copy from our project office.

The focus of the surveys is to learn more about the day-to-day experiences of people who live in, work in and visit nursing home facilities in our province. Specifically, the goal is to find out what are the characteristics of a nursing home that contribute to resident quality of life. We are anticipating surveys to be completed with 300 residents, 300 family members and approximately 2000 staff.

“Northwood strongly supports the pursuit of knowledge to inform excellence within our organization,” said Ann McInnis, principal knowledge user and VP Northwood. “Our involvement in this project is part of our ongoing commitment to build a culture of research throughout Northwood. It is also one of the few opportunities that the nursing home sector has to seek input from residents, families and particularly staff of what their experience is like on this important topic.”

The survey results will generate evidence to better understand how models of care affect nursing home resident quality of life and its findings will enhance outcomes for residents living in NS nursing homes and beyond.

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The project, “Care and Construction: Assessing Differences in Nursing Home Models of Care on Resident Quality of Life,” is being led by a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral team including researchers and decision makers and has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation. The survey is one component of the study which also includes case studies at three nursing homes, focus groups and in depth interviews.

To find more about the project contact 457-6218, 1-877-302-4440, careandconstruction@msvu.ca or visit the project website at www.careandconstruction.ca.

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