

Susan Stevens, BSW, MEd, RSW

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PROFILE STATEMENT: Social worker, policy maker, university professor, health systems leader. Susan is known for her ability to deliver innovative solutions in the complex and ever changing health and social service landscape. She is an effective communicator noted for being able to inspire and engage audiences. She has front-line service delivery, education, Board, procurement, project management, policy and planning experience. She brings strong analytical skills, a commitment to continuous quality improvement and a passion for continuing care/health policy and leadership to every aspect of her work. Susan is a champion of the healthy workplace.

Professional Experience

Senior Director, Continuing Care**April 2015 - present***Nova Scotia Health Authority – Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Reporting to the Vice President, Integrated Health Services – Community Support and Management, responsible for the province-wide planning and management of continuing care services and supports the clinical and academic mandates of the health authority.

Director, System Planning – Continuing Care Branch**2011 - 2015***Department of Health & Wellness - Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Member of senior leadership team responsible for home care, long term care, and protective services with \$800M annual program budget serving 40,000 clients each year. Leads strategic and program policy planning, policy advice, operational planning, stakeholder/public consultations, procurement and project management. Accountable for legislation, policy and standards for home care, long term care, adult protection and protection for persons in care.

Director, Standards & Policy Development – Continuing Care Branch**2004 - 2011***Department of Health - Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Member of senior leadership team responsible for home care, long term care, and protective services with \$700M annual program budget serving 35,000 clients each year. Leads program policy and standards development, provides policy advice and develops a range of policy products. Accountable for legislation, policy and standards for home care, long term care, adult protection and protection for persons in care.

Career Progression

Department of Health, Halifax, NS

Senior Policy Analyst, Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch
Care Coordinator, Continuing Care Branch

2001 – 2004
1996-2000, 2001

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

Research Project Coordinator, HIV/AIDS in the Meshwork, School of Education,

2000 - 2001

Halifax Association for Community Living, Halifax, NS <i>Family Support Coordinator</i>	1993 -1996
Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association, Halifax, NS <i>Assistant Settlement/Orientation Worker</i>	1993
Department of Community Services, Lower Sackville, NS <i>Family Benefits Caseworker</i>	1989 -1993

Concurrent Professional Engagements

Adjunct Professor **2015 - 2020**
Department of Family Studies and Gerontology
Mount Saint Vincent University – Halifax, NS

University Professor (part-time) **1999 - 2018**
Mount Saint Vincent University - Halifax, Nova Scotia

Graduate Thesis Committees

A Comparison of the Manitoba Primary Caregiver Tax Credit and the Nova Scotia Caregiver Benefit 2013
Assessing the Physical Environment in Adult Day Programs for Persons with Dementia 2012

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Contemporary and Professional Ethical Issues in Aging and Families FSGN 3401 2016
Introduction to Gerontology FSGN 1101 2014, 2015, 2018
Strategies for Planned Change FSGN 3345 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Policies on Families and Aging FSGN 4433 2009
Social Policy in Long Term Care FSGN 3346 2004, 2007

Graduate Courses Taught

Program Design in Adult Education 2002
Adult Education Methods 2001, 2002
Research Perspectives in Adult Education 2001
Practicum in Adult Education 1999 – 2001

Community Involvement

ElderDog Canada Inc., Vice-Chair 2014 – 2016
Disabled Persons Commission, Commissioner 2013 – 2015
Braemount Condominium Corporation, Board Member & President 2008 – 2010
Braemount Condominium Corporation, Board Member & Secretary 2006 – 2008
Braemount Condominium Corporation, Board Member 2004 – 2006
St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program, Parkstone Nursing Home Volunteer, Halifax 2006 – 2007
Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers, Professional Development Committee, Member 1995 – 2000
Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association, Board Member 1994 -1998
World Council of Churches, Young Women’s Festival, Suva, Fiji, Canadian Delegate 1994
Canada World Youth - Ghana Work Partner Program, Ghana, West Africa, Adult Educator 1992
World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland, Youth Steward Program, Canadian Delegate 1990

Education

EXTRA Fellowship, Canadian Foundation for Health Improvement	2017-18
Executive Leadership Development Program, Public Service Commission	2007 – 08
Policy Analysis for Government Managers, Public Service Commission Dalhousie University	2005
Project Management	2002, 2003
Master of Education in Adult Education, Dalhousie University	1994 - 95
Bachelor of Social Work (cum laude), Dalhousie University	1988 - 93

Professional Licenses & Memberships

Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers, Registered Social Worker, License #478.
Member, Canadian College of Health Leaders

Scholarly Presentations & Publications

Stevens, S.J. (2016). *Reversing the Tide: How the NSHA is using evidence to reduce waitlists for long term care*. Presentation at the 45th Scientific and Educational Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology.

Stevens, S.J. (2016). *Reversing the Tide: Reducing Long Term Care Waitlists in Nova Scotia*. Presentation at the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging Our Future is Aging Conference.

Keefe, J. Ogilvie, R. **Stevens, S.** MacPherson, D., & Stoddart, N. (2014). Provincial/regional variation in availability, cost of delivery and wait times for accessing home care services to address avoidable admissions to long term care, alternate level of care bed days and hospitalization. Report prepared for Health Canada.

Stevens, S.J. (2012). *Personal Alert Assistance Program – Does it prolong stay at home?* Presentation at the Canadian Home Care Association Annual Conference.

Stevens, S.J. & Etter, L. (2010). *Working Together Works – Nova Scotia’s Home Care on Reserves Project*. Presentation at the Canadian Home Care Association Annual Conference.

Stevens, S.J. (2004). *Quality Improvement in Continuing Care*. Presentation given at the Canadian Home Care Association Annual Conference.

Stevens, S.J. (2002). *Knowledge Management: A Critical View*. Presentation given at the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education Atlantic Region Annual Conference on Organizational Learning.

Stevens, S.J. (1999). *Social Work and New Technology*. Presentation given at the Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers Annual Conference.

Research Grants

Principal Knowledge User: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). (April 2018 – March 2022). Project Grant: How Approaches to Care Shape the Pathways of Older Adult Home Care Clients. (\$860,000). (PI: Keefe, J.).

Co-knowledge User: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). (April 2016 – March 2020). Team Grant: Seniors Adding Life to Years (SALTY). (\$1,397,931). (PI: Estabrooks, C.; Keefe, J.).

Co-applicant: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). (September 2017 – August 2019). Health System Impact Fellowship: What Does A Person And Family Centred Approach to Challenging Behaviours In Dementia Look Like In Practice At The Service Delivery Level? A Partnership To Support Research Informed Continuing Care Policy in Nova Scotia. (\$155,000). (Principal Applicant: Aubrecht, K.; Co-applicant: Keefe, J.).

Co-investigator: Dalhousie Nursing Research Fund. (July 2017 – June 2018). Operating Grant: The Experiences And Perceptions Of Unpaid Caregivers Providing Care For Community Dwelling Adults With Dementia: A Qualitative Systematic Review Protocol. (\$5,000). (PI: MacDonald, M.).

Co-investigator: Nova Scotia Health Research Fund (NSHRF). (July 2017 – June 2018). Development/Innovative Grant: The Experiences And Perceptions of Unpaid Caregivers Providing Care For Community Dwelling Adults With A Dementia: A Qualitative Systematic Review. (\$15,000). (PI: MacDonald, M.).