



***The Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health is one of four national Centres of Excellence for Women's Health funded by the Gender and Health Unit, Health Canada. We are dedicated to conducting policy-oriented research aimed at improving the health status of Canadian women by making the health system more aware of and responsive to women's health needs.***

## Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health Range of Initiatives 2004-2010

*The following outlines areas of policy development and/or research undertaken, or currently underway, by ACEWH between 2004 and 2010.*

### Economic costing of obesity among First Nations communities in Canada

This proposed project is a preliminary step in deepening understanding of the impact of obesity/overweight and chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. While we recognize the pain and suffering arising from obesity-related chronic illnesses, there are also economic costs associated with these conditions, which have both direct (diagnosis and treatment) and indirect (work absenteeism, lost wages) impact for First Nations individuals, families and communities. Economic costing of obesity-related chronic diseases reveals direct costs of over \$1.8 billion or 2.4% of total health care expenditures in Canada. We are collaborating with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), to undertake an economic costing of obesity among First Nations peoples in Canada based on secondary analysis of data from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS) and the Economic Burden of Illness in Canada (EBIC). Analysis will include attention to sex and age differences and provide evidence that can be used by First Nations groups who are working to address both obesity and chronic diseases in their communities.

### Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities

The Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities (ASI) is a learning institute that brings together people working in economic and social development, justice, crime, disease and injury prevention, and health promotion. It has been held annually since 2004 at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, PEI. ACEWH is the lead partner and administrator of the resources for the Institute. For more information on the Atlantic Summer Institute, please visit <http://www.upei.ca/si/>



## Sex and Gender-Based Analysis (SGBA)



A book on sex and gender-based SGBA, “Rising to the Challenge” was published in 2009 and a series of workshops have been developed and delivered to a wide range of policymakers from community and government. Other workshops have been offered at provincial, national and international levels.

## Healthy Balance: A community alliance for health research on women’s unpaid caregiving

The goal of the Healthy Balance Research Program is to better understand the connections between women’s health and well-being, family life and earning a livelihood within Nova Scotia. During the project, researchers engaged women from diverse populations, such as Mi’Kmaq, Black, rural and lesbian, to develop greater insight into the nature, scope and impact of unpaid caregiving in mainstream and marginalized communities. These research projects and partnerships with women helped to highlight the need for public support for and recognition of the critical care work provided by women across Nova Scotia.

## On the Margins: Understanding and Improving Black Women’s Health in Rural and Remote Nova Scotian Communities

The project centred on an investigation of health status, health care delivery, and health services utilization among African Canadians residing in rural and remote regions of Nova Scotia, specifically the towns and villages along the south and west shores of the province, from Liverpool to Annapolis Royal.

## Rethinking Health Inequities: Social and economic inclusion (SEI) and the case of ‘Lone Mothers’

A qualitative, exploratory study that included focus groups and interviews in eight communities in Atlantic Canada, representing 77 lone mothers. Many lone mothers told us about their experiences of feeling excluded ; not been able to participate in their own communities, not being able to allow their children to go on school trips, not having enough money to provide healthy food for themselves and their children, all the while facing prejudice and discrimination.



## Farm Family Health

This study is part of a large cross-Canada study on the impact of “Mad Cow” disease on the health and well-being of women in farming families and communities. Many interesting findings emerged from this project, such as the dire conditions with which Canada’s farming families are struggling and clear evidence of the escalation of gender-based violence during periods of economic downturn.

## State of Women’s Cancer in Atlantic Canada

In this project ACEWH develop a consolidated report of women’s cancers in Atlantic Canada; including : 1) a statistical profile of breast, cervical, ovarian and uterine cancers in four Atlantic provinces, based on available secondary data analysis; 2) an environmental scan of supports and services available to those with breast, cervical, ovarian and uterine cancers in the Atlantic provinces; 3) qualitative data from 8 focus groups to capture voices of marginalized women living with the breast, cervical, ovarian and uterine cancers; and 4) key informant interviews with representatives from NGO and government agencies supporting women living with breast, cervical, ovarian and uterine cancers. For more information, visit <http://www.acewh.dal.ca/e/info/reports.asp> to download the document entitled “Where do we go from here: Support services for women with breast, cervical, ovarian, and uterine cancer in Atlantic Canada”.

## Immigrant Women, Family Violence and Pathways Out of Homelessness

This project was a multi-site study with research being conducted in collaboration with academic and community partners in Calgary, Winnipeg and Halifax. The goal and outcomes of the project was to better understand the systemic and individual factors leading to persistent and repetitive homelessness among immigrant women experiencing family violence.

## The Midwifery Way: A National Forum Reflecting on the State of Midwifery Regulation in Canada

In an effort to learn from the experiences of the regulated provinces in which midwifery is regulated and to ensure that midwifery services are made available to more women, the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health and the Prairie Women’s Health Centre of Excellence hosted *The Midwifery Way: A National Forum Reflecting on the State of Midwifery Regulation in Canada*, on July 22 and 23, 2004 at Dalhousie University.

***For additional information please contact the  
Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health***