



December 2011 » E-news

NSHRF NEWS

Wishing you the best of the season

2011 was a great year for the NSHRF. We continued to evolve in the way we support health researchers in Nova Scotia. This past year we launched our newly designed funding opportunities for research trainees and our Knowledge Programs continued to evolve, specifically we supported the Department of Health and Wellness in the development of a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy for the province.

Every year we see the health research community in Nova Scotia develop and the need for research based decision making grow. All of us at the NSHRF are proud to work with such a great community and look forward to working with you all in 2012.

Happy Holidays,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirsta Connell".

and the NSHRF team

Take a look at our 2010-11 Annual Report

The [2010-11 NSHRF Annual Report – Looking Forward](#) is now available online. This year's report features the art from the three finalists in our 10th anniversary Art in Health Award (NSCAD award), our 2010-11 funded applicants and highlights from the past fiscal year.

Peer Review Observer Program Application Call

We are currently accepting applications for our Peer Review Observer Program. The program provides an opportunity for those with an interest in health research to learn about the peer review process through first-hand observation of our Peer Review Committee during their deliberations.

The peer review process subjects a researcher's scholarly ideas to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the field. We, like the national funding agencies and others, use the

peer review process to assure that the research funded meets the highest standards of excellence.

For more information and to apply for the Peer Review Observer Program, click [here](#).

Call for applications: CONSUP- Research Team Development Award

The Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) is looking for a research team that will conduct a survey to support their initiatives on generating awareness and understanding within the university student community about the long-term value of healthy food choices and active lifestyles.

CONSUP is committed to supporting a healthy environment for students, faculty and staff at Nova Scotia's universities. In order to better understand the current status of student food choices, lifestyles and related issues and to support the long-term program objectives, the working group intends to identify a research team to design and conduct a benchmark survey that examines food choices, lifestyles and other health issues of undergraduate students across Nova Scotia's universities and the Nova Scotia Community College system.

This Team Development Award is intended to support the development of a research team that will apply for additional funding in order to conduct the benchmark survey. The team may choose to apply to any provincial, national, or international research funding competition that is peer reviewed. This Award will support activities related to team and proposal development.

For more information on the Award and apply, please visit our [website](#).

Applications are to be submitted by **February 3, 2012**.

NSHRF funded applicant success story

Congratulations to Dr. Sheri Price, who successfully defended her dissertation and graduated in November from the University of Toronto with her PhD. Sheri was a NSHRF Student Award recipient in both her Masters and PhD and went on to receive a fellowship from CIHR during her doctoral program.

Sheri recently contacted us to thank us for the support, training and mentorship that she received. She said that her CIHR application was strengthened by her funding success with us.

We were very excited to hear Sheri's success and are proud to have been involved in her career. Nova Scotia has a strong health research community and these success stories help strengthen it. We always like to hear from funded applicants, so please do share you successes with us by contacting our [Communications Officer](#).

To learn more about Sheri's research please see below:

Sheri Price received Student Award funding for her Masters and PhD, both in Nursing. Sheri chose to complete her PhD at the University of Toronto, but her research was grounded in Nova Scotia.

Sheri's dissertation explored the career choice among Millennial nurses (born 1980 or after) in Nova Scotia and sought to understand their perceptions and expectations of the profession upon entry, so as to inform both recruitment and retention efforts. An interpretive, narrative methodology, was used to understand how Millennial nurses explain, account for, and make sense of their choice of nursing as a career. Individual, face to face interviews were conducted with 12 Millennial Nursing students, for whom nursing was their preferred career choice. Participants were interviewed twice and also chronicled their career choice experiences within reflective journals. Data was analyzed using Polkinghorne's method of narrative configuration and employment.

The participants' narratives demonstrated a shift from understanding their choice of nursing in relation to the perceived virtues of the profession to recognizing career choice as social positioning. Career choice was initially driven by a traditional and stereotypical understanding of nursing as a virtuous profession. The narratives evolved overtime towards understanding the meaning of career choice in relation to one's desired position in the social world. Concerns such as lifestyle, job security, salary and social status were also emphasized in the participant stories.

The narratives represent career choice as a complex consideration of social positioning, as well as hopes and tensions. The participants' perceptions and expectations in relation to their future nursing careers were influenced by a historical and stereotypical understanding of nursing; an image that remains prevalent in society and has implications for career satisfaction. Insight gained from this inquiry can inform recruitment, education, socialization and retention strategies for the upcoming and future generations of nurses.



Sheri with her husband, Jacques Comeau and son, Ben Comeau at her graduation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking for a colleague, possible collaborator, or expert source of information? Take a look through the [Nova Scotia Directory of Health Researchers](#), available online at the NSHRF website.

If you are a Nova Scotian researcher working in a discipline either directly or indirectly related to health, please take a minute to add your name to the directory through your [Canadian Common CV](#).

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