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## **NLCAHR STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-2006**

*Adopted by the Board on February 9, 2004*

### **VISION**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research will be recognized both within this province and across the country as an effective and innovative organization in the field of applied health research and as significant contributor to evidence-based health decision making.

### **MISSION**

The Centre contributes to the effectiveness of the health and community service system of Newfoundland and Labrador and to the physical, social, psychological health and wellbeing of the province's population by supporting the development and the use of applied health research in this province. It works with an inclusive and flexible conception of the term 'applied health research' and in a spirit of openness to the widest possible range of disciplinary and methodological approaches as well as of organizational attachments.

### **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The Centre's work involves:

- multiple units in the academic community involved in aspects of applied health research, each with its own priorities, organizational interests and resource challenges;
- limited funding at the level of the University and the provincial government for research infrastructure, training or operations but an improving federal funding context that can be tapped;
- a provincial health system confronting difficult and costly challenges but with a clearly defined and consensually based set of priorities articulated in the province's strategic health planning documents; and
- a growing awareness in the province's health system of the importance of research-based evidence in decision making as well as of the necessity of finding better ways to exchange knowledge between the health system and the research community.

### **GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

The Centre's mission involves three principal goals:

1. to help build capacity in the province for doing high-quality applied health research;
2. to increase the amount of high-quality applied health research undertaken on issues identified by its major partners and its stakeholders as having high priority to the province's health system and to the health and wellbeing of its population; and
3. to foster more effective use of research evidence in the province's health and community services system.

Each of these goals involves of a set of objectives, as follows:

#### **Goal 1: Capacity building**

Objective 1a: supporting graduate and post-graduate training that will add to the human resources available in the province for applied health research

Objective 1b: increasing the number of professional researchers working on health issues in the province's academic institutions and health organizations

Objective 1c: helping to attract increased levels of funding from inside and outside the province for applied health researchers and research teams

Objective 1d: developing networks that link the province's health researchers amongst themselves and that make possible enhanced collaboration between researchers and the potential users of research (clinicians, decision makers and policy makers) in the provincial health and community services system

**Goal 2: Increasing the output of applied health research on priority issues identified by the Centre's major partners and its stakeholders**

Objective 2a: developing an evolving consensus on priority research issues

Objective 2b: channeling research funding to high-quality researchers and research teams working on priority issues

Objective 2c: fostering collaboration between local researchers and those located elsewhere in Canada

**Goal 3: More effective knowledge exchange**

Objective 3a: increasing the ability of researchers to work with clinicians and health- system decision makers/policy makers in formulating research questions and undertaking research

Objective 3b: increasing the ability of potential users of research across the health system and in community organizations involved in health issues to collaborate with researchers in formulating research questions, participating in research activities, and putting research findings into practice

Objective 3c: increasing the access of clinicians, decision makers and policymakers in the provincial health and community services system to the findings of research done both here and elsewhere on priority issues and helping them increase their use of research to guide decision making

Objective 3d: providing up-to-date, readily accessible information for all stakeholders concerning NLCAHR activities and funding opportunities as well as concerning opportunities for external funding and collaborative work