

Background and Bios:

The Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence are two of the four national Centres of Excellence for Women's Health funded by the Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis, Health Canada. The goal of the centres is to support research, influence policy and promote action on the social factors that affect women's health and well-being over their lifespan. Each centre has a geographic focus – one is in Halifax in Eastern Canada and the other has sites in Winnipeg and Regina in the central Prairie Provinces – but both respond to research and policy needs that are regional, national and international in scope.

Barbara Clow is Executive Director of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (www.acewh.dal.ca) and Associate Professor Research in the Faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University, Halifax. Dr. Clow has pursued a program of research, publication and policy uptake on diverse aspects of women's health; such as the gendered dimensions of health care reform in Canada; health implications for low income, immigrant, homeless, rural and African Canadian women; the role of gender in the HIV/AIDS pandemic; issues related to reproductive health and the impact of women's unpaid caregiving work. She has a PhD in the history of medicine from the University of Toronto.

Margaret Haworth-Brockman is the Executive Director of Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence (www.pwhce.ca) where she manages a small but comprehensive program in new research, policy advice and communication in the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with networks across the country. Her primary areas of focus are Aboriginal women's health, women who live in poverty, women in rural, remote and northern communities, and gender in health planning.

Linda Snyder is the Knowledge Exchange Manager at the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. She oversees the work of building partnerships across sectors, disciplines and regions, with a mandate to involve diverse partners in the development of research and training projects to facilitate knowledge exchange. She also previously led a multi-year knowledge exchange project on social and economic inclusion in Atlantic Canada. Linda has worked on a range of projects that focus on knowledge brokering, social justice and women's health and well-being. Linda has experience with international non-governmental organizations, overseas and in Canada.

Dr Barbara Clow, Ms Haworth-Brockman and the staff of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health have worked together in the area of Gender and HIV-AIDS, including a satellite session at World AIDS 2004 (Bangkok), a skills-building workshop at World AIDS 2006 (Toronto), and a Summer Institute on HIV/AIDS at the University of Winnipeg in 2007, among other projects. Complementary work in the area of social and economic inclusion/exclusion of women with low income was jointly presented in Northern Ireland in 2008.