



Creating Canada-wide Research & Funding

Partnerships:

Issues and Lessons Learned From a Study of Rural and Remote Nursing Practice

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The Study

Aim:

- to examine and articulate the nature of registered nursing practice in primary care, acute care, community health, continuing care (home care) and long term care settings within rural and remote Canada



The Study Components

- Survey
- Registered Nurses Data Base (RNDB)
- Narrative Study
- Documentary Analysis



Project Germination

August 1999	“a casual comment”
October 1999	Saskatoon, Prince George
Applications	
November 1999	CHSRF Open Grants Competition: Submission of LOI
March 2000	Submission of full application
June 2000	CHSRF-Conditional approval
Summer 2000	CHSRF-Request for additional information/clarification
December 2000	Resubmission of full application
April 2001	Official grant approval
May 2001	Project underway
August 2001	All sub-contracts signed

Principal Investigators and Decision-maker



- **Martha MacLeod**
**University of Northern
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- **Norma Stewart**
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Co-Investigators

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- **Kathy Banks**
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Advisory Team Members



- Marian Knock, B.C. MOHP, Principal Decision-Maker
- Denise Alcock, U. Ottawa
- Madge Applin, Centre for Nursing Studies, Nfld.
- Donna Brunskill, SRNA
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- Marta Crawford, CRNM
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- Joyce England, ANPEI
- Fjola Hart Wasekeesikaw, Aboriginal Nurses Ass'n
- Adele Vukic, Dalhousie U.
- Joyce English, ANPEI
- Barb Oke, N.S. MOH
- Cecile Hunt, North Central Health District, SK
- Kathleen MacMillan, FINHB – Health Canada
- Maria MacNaughton, MSB - Health Canada
- Suzanne Michaud, QHA
- Rachel Munday, Health and Social Services, Nunavut
- Debbie Phillipchuk, AARN
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- Cathy Ulrich, Northern Health Authority, BC
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Funding Partners

- **Canadian Health Services Research Foundation**
- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**
- **Nursing Research Fund**
- **Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**
- **Alberta Heritage Foundation for Health Research**
- **Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research**
- **Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation**
- **British Columbia Rural and Remote Health Research Institute**
- **Saskatchewan Economic and Cooperative Development**
- **Provincial and Territorial Nurses Associations**
- **Government of Nunavut**
- **Canadian Institute for Health Information**



Researchers' Perspective

Martha MacLeod

Lead Investigator

Co-Principal Investigator



Time, Timing and Flexibility

What is needed to develop and support a Canada-wide study?

Lessons Learned:

- Take hold of the opportunity
- Don't underestimate infrastructure or time needed
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Funding for project development
- Flexibility of funders is sometimes critical to development



Building Teams, Building Trust

How do we develop and recognize the team?

How do we keep the momentum going over time and across country?

Lessons Learned:

- Need a well-working, trusting core group
- Need mechanisms for recognizing project involvement
- Make the most of various talents
 - Calling on differing expertise at differing stages of the project
 - Structuring the team(s) into effective working groups with overall coordination

Developing and Engaging the Advisory Team



What do researchers need from an Advisory Team?
How can Advisors remain engaged?

Lessons Learned:

- Recognize team will change and evolve
- All areas of expertise will be needed sometime in the life of the study
- Be specific in requests of Advisors
- Don't underestimate the talents of Advisors
- Communicate, communicate, communicate (but in ways that Advisors need)



Funder's Perspective

Louise Lapierre

Canadian Health Services Research
Foundation



CHSRF Overview

- An independent, national, public, not-for-profit corporation established in 1997 with a federal fund.
- Mission: To promote and fund applied health services research (special focus on nursing research) and to increase the research's quality, relevance and usefulness for policy makers.
- Key Difference: Review proposals for potential impact and scientific merit by panels of decision makers and researchers.



Lessons Learned from Experience with this Project

- Confirms need for matching funding at full-scale application stage.
- Plans are in place to retain competition themes over a number competitions.
- An exception was made to the policy of allowing only two co-principal investigators
- Multi-jurisdictional nature of project can affect ethical approval.



Decision Maker Involvement in CHSRF Funded Research

- Relationship between decision-maker and research team affects the impact of the research.
- The decision-maker should be able to discern first messages for dissemination and important short-term deliverables for the project.
- Appropriate and meaningful involvement of decision-maker partners will vary.
- Articulation of the planned decision-maker involvement is required in the full-scale application and is assessed by the merit review panel.



Principal Decision Maker's Perspective

Marian Knock

B.C. Ministry of Health Planning

Executive Director, Primary Care Program



Role of Principal Decision Maker

- Theoretical Role
- Actual Role
- Issues
 - Time/Timing
 - Principal investigators involved early on
 - Not a major focus of the team at early stages
 - Principal decision-maker loses the plot



Expectations

- Principal Investigators
- Principal Decision-Maker
- Issues
 - Getting to know each other
 - Role confusion – when to become involved
 - Role/connections with Advisory Team
 - Unclear expectations
 - What feedback is appreciated
 - Whose research is this?



Recommendations

- Written description-roles & responsibilities
- Establish relationship early
- Clarify expectations (PI/DM)
- Regular meetings over life of research
- Teleconferences after meetings



Choosing a Principal Decision Maker

- Determine where you would like the research to make an impact.
- Choose a person “high enough” to be able to make the appropriate contacts.
- Meet in person to determine the fit.
- Explain time commitment with expectations



Summary

- Developing partnerships in a Canada-wide study is exciting, demanding, and will ultimately result in a better study with a greater chance of its findings being used.
- There are not many recipes out there.
- Flexibility, trust, and commitment on the part of researchers, decision-makers, and funders make it possible.



Contact Information

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