

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

# Training Researchers in the Ethics of Health Research and Policy

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Canadians care about ethical behaviour in health research and policy, and so, maintaining a qualified body of practitioners in the area of ethics of health policy and health research is critical. However, we are experiencing a severe shortage of practitioners trained in this area.

In response to this shortfall, the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Michael Smith Foundation, funded a training grant in the ethics of health research and policy. Under this grant, a small cadre of Nova Scotia researchers provided intensive mentoring to doctoral and postdoctoral trainees.

“The program helped to develop trainees’ interdisciplinary knowledge, skills in ethics, and research skills,” says Sue Sherwin, a professor in the Department of Philosophy at Dalhousie University and principal investigator.

The Ethics of Health Research and Policy Program aims to train the next generation of ethicists for public and private sector policy-making bodies, research institutions and organizations, and universities. The project involves intense cross-disciplinary study and an appreciation of context in practical decision-making.

“We are extremely satisfied with the success of this program, and believe that participants will continue to emphasize ethics in their careers,” notes Dr. Sherwin: “Training such as this has a multiplier affect. In short, training one policy-maker or researcher in ethics helps to disseminate ideas and styles of thinking, and can affect the landscape of Canadian health research and policy profoundly.”

This project is important for the future of Canadian health research and the development of policy. Projects such as this contribute to the continued credibility of this sector and help to maintain the public trust.

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