

# Doctoral Fellowship in Health Equity with Equity Lens for Public Health (ELPH)

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Applications are invited for a 2-year doctoral fellowship with the Equity Lens in Public Health (ELPH) Program of Research at the University of Victoria. ELPH is a Core Public Health Functions Research Initiative (CPHFRI) program of research and is housed in the School of Nursing and Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC). The ELPH Program of Research is seeking highly qualified candidates to engage in research related to health equity in public health and application of an equity lens in policy related to mental health promotion and preventing the harms of substance use.

## Project Description

The purpose of this CIHR Health Equity grant is to generate new knowledge to inform systemic responses for reducing health inequities through strengthening of public health systems. In this project we are focusing on the integration of an equity lens in public health and in relation to mental health promotion and preventing the harms of substance use. The project brings together partners from all of BC's health authorities as well as the Ministry of Health Services, Public Health Agency of Canada, University of Victoria, University of British Columbia and the National Collaborating Centre on the Determinants of Health. There will be four interconnected studies over the course of the 5 years looking at (1) what promotes or restricts the adoption of health equity as a priority, (2) what mechanisms of collaboration exist between public health and other sectors to take action on health inequities, (3) what tools and resources can be developed to support health equity oriented policies and programs, and (4) how to address the ethical challenges faced by public health providers as they work to reduce health inequities. This project will provide considerable opportunities for learning that will contribute to improving efforts through integration of an equity lens and contribute to knowledge related to mental health promotion and preventing the harms of substance use of British Columbians, especially those impacted by social, economic, and historical disadvantages.

## Job Description: Doctoral Fellowship (DF)

The primary responsibilities of the doctoral fellow will be to work with the team in the area of integrated knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) with specific opportunities to monitor and evaluate KT activities. The ELPH project is a policy research initiative with an integrated KTE component that is central to the conduct of the research. The successful candidate will work with the team on the implementation of the KTE plan over the course of the fellowship. In addition, the candidate will have opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in all aspects of public health policy and practice with specific application to health equity and mental health promotion and preventing the harms of substance use programs in public health and other sectors. There will be opportunities to work

collaboratively with senior public and population health policy makers related to various aspects of public health services. The Doctoral Fellow will be able to participate in capacity training opportunities as they arise, as well as contribute to the preparation of research papers, reports and conference presentations. It is expected that the DF will be located at the University of Victoria and will be developing their research under the supervision of Dr. Bernie Pauly (Associate Professor, Nursing and Scientist, Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia) or another member of the investigative team. The appointment will be for one year with a potential for renewal. Successful candidate will receive an annual Graduate Training Stipend of \$30,000 and a \$5,000 research stipend.

## Position Qualifications

For this fellowship, we are particularly interested in attracting high quality candidates with expertise or interest in health equity and/or mental health, substance use and Knowledge Translation and Exchange. The successful candidate will have a particular interest and/or expertise in KTE that they are intending to pursue as part of their doctoral work. The fellowship is open to candidates who hold a master's degree in nursing or in a public health-related field and enrolment in a public health, social determinants of health, nursing or other health-related PhD program at the University of Victoria. Background in health equity, the health of marginalized populations, poverty, mental health promotion, or preventing the harms of substance use, would be an asset. The Doctoral Fellow will have excellent interpersonal, organization and communication (oral and written) skills; experience conducting library searches and using information systems; ability to work independently and to be self-directed. Experience with knowledge translation strategies would be an asset.

Applicants must have a doctoral fellowship application under review, or be preparing a submission for the next competition. If the applicant is successful in obtaining a doctoral fellowship, they would be expected to give up the ELPH fellowship, but their connection to the research program will be maintained. They will only be eligible for top up funds if the externally obtained fellowship is less than the ELPH fellowship. Start date is negotiable but it is anticipated to be Fall, 2012.

To apply, please submit a CV, two letters of reference (including a letter from a master's or PhD program faculty member such as a supervisor), and a cover letter describing your experience/interest in health equity and/or public health services research, and your goals for the fellowship. Complete application materials are due March 15, 2012. They should be sent electronically or by courier to:

Bernadette (Bernie) Pauly RN, Ph.D  
Associate Professor, School of Nursing  
Scientist, Centre for Addictions Research of B.C. (CARBC)  
Mailing Address: University of Victoria, Box 1700 STN CSC  
Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8W 2Y2  
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### Questions?

Contact Kathleen Perkin,  
ELPH Project Coordinator:

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**University  
of Victoria**

Centre for Addictions  
Research of BC

**CPHFRI**  
Core Public Health Functions Research Initiative