

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

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Applications are invited for a one year master's 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 public health services with specific application to mental health and substance use. 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: Graduate Research Trainee (GRT)**

The primary responsibilities of the successful trainee will be to work with the team in relation to the development of equity tools for public health with a focus on application to mental health and substance use. The candidate, as part of the team, will have an opportunity to develop a focus for their thesis. Further, the candidate will have opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in aspects of policy and practice relevant to mental health and substance use services in public health. There will also be opportunities to work collaboratively with senior public and population health policy makers related to various aspects of public health services. The GRT will be located at the University of Victoria and will

work 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. Successful candidate will receive a Graduate Training Stipend of \$17,500.

## Position Qualifications

The fellowship is open to candidates who hold a bachelor'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 master's program at the University of Victoria. Background in health of marginalized populations, poverty, mental health, or substance use, would be an asset. The GRT will have an interest in the development of equity focused tools and application of such tools in public health particularly in relation to mental health and substance use.

Applicants must have a master's fellowship application under review, or be preparing a submission for the next competition. If the applicant is successful in obtaining a master's 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 bachelor's or master's 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)  
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### Questions?

Contact Kathleen Perkin,  
ELPH Project Coordinator:

[kmperkin@uvic.ca](mailto:kmperkin@uvic.ca)

