



National Collaborating Centre
for Determinants of Health
Centre de collaboration nationale
des déterminants de la santé

September 12, 2018

The National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health and St. Francis Xavier University anticipate recruiting a new Scientific Director starting late September.

The current scientific director will retire upon successful recruitment of a replacement. The [National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health](#) (NCCDH) is promoting the position prior to the formal job posting, selection and hiring by [St. Francis Xavier University](#) (StFX) to build interest in the opportunity and inform individuals considering the forthcoming opening. Anticipate a job posting [here](#) by late September, with an ideal start date in January. Interested individuals should contact the NCCDH's succession planning workgroup by emailing nccdh@stfx.ca.

Everyone receiving this promotion is asked to forward it to likely candidates.

The candidate we are seeking is / This position might suit you if you are:

Passionate about public and population health, fairness and social justice.

Savvy in public health practice and systems, applied research and knowledge mobilization, ideally with complementary community experience; keen to mobilize knowledge into transformative policy and to work at the interface of social science and public health; respectful and informed about a range of knowledge/evidence types and method bases.

Able to bring advanced expertise in social determinants of health and health equity, especially an understanding of public health system needs, assets and opportunities to advance health equity; someone whose comprehension of inequities and discrimination is informed by reflective understanding of one's personal experience and heritage; well-informed about Francophone, Indigenous and settler histories and current issues; ideally, fluently bilingual in English and French.

Visionary and results-oriented with demonstrated program management excellence; able to foresee and analyse varied and changing contexts and navigate forward paths; a participatory leader, able to negotiate shared interest, consensus and mutual wins with public health leaders, academics, allies, the other National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (NCCs), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and other governments and funders; able to listen, ask, observe, imagine, experiment, co-create and risk-take; interested in continuous improvement — of the Centre, the network of NCCs and the public health sector; one who finds reward in helping others achieve success.

Well-grounded in community and other-oriented; able to inspire, engage and mobilize others; an effective collaborator, team-builder and communicator; Pan-Canadian and, ideally, internationally networked with a strong reputation.

2400 Mount Saint Bernard College, Camden Hall, 2nd Floor, St. Francis Xavier University
PO Box 5000, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5

Tel: 902.867.6133 | Fax: 902.867.6130 | E-mail: nccdh@stfx.ca | Web: www.nccdh.ca



Specific details

This position will suit a mid-career individual seeking an expanded role with national scope or a late-career leader looking for a big and rewarding push to round out their career. We are hoping for someone who brings a practice background with research/academic experience or an academic career complemented by practice experience. StFX is open to exploring the possibility of concurrent joint academic or health system affiliation for the incoming NCCDH scientific director.

This position is based in Antigonish, from where the director will lead a distributed team of eight and oversee a budget of \$1 million. (Some flexibility may be negotiable.) Travel, mostly within Canada, will be required.

The incoming candidate will be masters- or PhD-prepared in a related field with demonstrated breadth of expertise, or an equivalent mix of experience and training. This opening will suit someone trained in a public health discipline or a related social science combined with public health expertise.

As part of its commitment to diversity and being anti-racist, the NCCDH actively seeks applications from individuals within equity-seeking populations (e.g., Indigenous persons, people of colour, women, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ-identified individuals).

In keeping with the funding conditions of all NCCs, the appointment is subject to continued funding.

Currently, all signals from the PHAC (the principal funder of the NCCs) are that the program will be renewed in 2020 for another five or more years with long-standing host organizations invited to submit proposals in 2019. The NCCs were created alongside PHAC and are understood to be a core component of the pan-Canadian public health system.

The professional opportunity

Established in 2005 and funded through PHAC, the [National Collaborating Centres for Public Health](#) (NCCs) equip the public health sector to improve responses to public health threats (including health inequities), chronic disease/injury and infectious diseases. The six NCCs are located across Canada, and each focuses on a different public health priority or population.

The NCCDH advances social determinants of health and health equity through public health practice, policy and systems. NCCDH staff:

- identify, translate (make accessible) and disseminate knowledge and evidence to influence interrelated determinants of health;
- support the uptake, application and exchange of information, products and services;
- identify gaps in research, practice and systems;
- engage in collaborative learning projects and function as knowledge translation intermediaries with research partners; and
- support enduring interpersonal and interorganizational connections and networks that enable knowledge exchange across jurisdictions and localities.

The incoming director's role will be refined by the next director to take advantage of her/his strengths. The Centre focuses on public health capacity and transformation, offering an unusual mix of breadth and depth. It gives specific attention to change that occurs system-wide, organizationally and on the part of individuals, as well as across jurisdictions, disciplines and programs. The role includes setting vision, strategy and ongoing modifications necessary to realize desired impacts. The scientific director will ensure assessment of needs and opportunities, team planning, winning proposals/workplans and effective reporting to and negotiation with

PHAC and other funders. Deliverables, in English and French, include conference workshops and presentations, webinars, tailored meetings; reports, briefing notes, factsheets, case stories, reviews, dialogue-based products; online modules; and virtual networks. The Centre's director must demonstrate contribution to increased practitioner knowledge and improved public health strategies, guidelines, policies and interventions.

The incoming scientific director will find a rare opportunity to enhance a highly respected, successful and well-functioning program. You will attain creative challenge through taking the Centre to its next level, with significant latitude in determining direction and how to allocate resources. The timing is perfect to design the next multi-year strategy, following a brief grounding period. An evaluation culture is well established. Staff experts are dedicated, smart and well-networked who function well as a team and will anticipate continued engagement and recognition in all facets of the work. A national advisory board is poised to support the leadership transition.

Being one of six NCCs offers an exciting opportunity and requirement to partner across issues, populations, diverse expertise, and varied knowledge mobilization specialties. Being located within StFX offers opportunities to engage with faculty and students. Our small university has a deep commitment to student research; established nursing and nutrition departments; a new health studies program; planned growth of health specialties; and long-standing values-based engagement in community development, exemplified by the Coady Institute.

The personal opportunity

Antigonish offers rich life/work balance. It is a family-friendly community where housing is affordable. (The outgoing NCCDH director lives on salt water 10 minutes from town. The regional public health director lives walking distance to schools.) Expect no traffic congestion, and as short a commute as you choose.

In winter you can easily ski, skate, curl and snowshoe. In summer, swimming and kayaking in the mildest ocean water north of Washington, DC, is irresistible. We have great hiking trails, a golf course, a boating club, numerous fishing spots, bicycling on little-trafficked back roads and a racetrack. You'll be surprised at the lack of crowds in the midst of immense natural beauty. You'll also find a wide range of fitness and sports programs for all ages. StFX's recreational facilities are superb with a gym, rinks, a track, courts and a 25 m pool.

French-language schools and Acadian, Mi'kmaq and historic African Nova Scotian communities are near town. Antigonish's growing community of newcomers is bringing welcome diversity to a historically heterogeneous, white town. Day and residential programs integrate individuals with diverse abilities into community activities. Retirement residences have recently opened. A wide range of service organizations and activist coalitions will welcome you as a volunteer.

Antigonish boasts an energetic arts and creative community. Theatre, documentary films, readings and lectures, concerts, visual arts abound. An award-winning library serves as a community centre. Halifax, festivals and even PEI are accessible for weekend or day trips. An agricultural base results in a wonderful farmers market and easy access to local foods.

Interested individuals should contact the NCCDH's succession planning workgroup by emailing nccdh@stfx.ca. St. Francis Xavier University will formally post the position and open competition only when the NCCDH indicates that sufficient interest has been identified. Thus, if you are considering this forthcoming opening, please write us ASAP. If you know of a potential candidate, please encourage them to consider this job possibility.