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Arts 3000

Major Project Proposal

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The Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center (FDCHC) formed through a partnership in 2014 between the Horizon Health Network and the University of New Brunswick (UNB) Community Health Clinic. In March of 2017, the FDCHC opened at 339 King Street, in Fredericton New Brunswick. The FDCHC is a teaching facility that offers integrated services, including health care, teaching, and research. The Horizon Health Network and the faculty of nursing at the University of New Brunswick provides an experiential learning environment as well as advancements in research and innovations in community-based health care. The facility offers illness and injury prevention, chronic disease management, community development, and outreach services. The Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center also provides a Community Access Room. Equipped with a showering facility, coffee, community resources and laundry services, the Community Access Room is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. The Community Access Room focuses on aiding the vulnerably housed and homeless population of Fredericton and surrounding areas. The FDCHC also facilitates dietitians, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, and street outreach support. The Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center prides itself on patient-centred care and community-based research while maximizing health and well-being and minimizing adverse health and social consequences of their patients and the community while using a harm reduction approach. The harm reduction approach allows the FDCHC to provide an environment that enables the patient to use self-determination and free will regarding their care. This approach empowers the patient to make more informed and sound choices not only concerning healthcare issues but in life itself.

The goal of this project is to identify critical and pointillistic areas of improvement as well as emphasize the benefits of the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center's involvement in homelessness, harm prevention and addiction throughout Fredericton and the surrounding areas. Through ethnographic observation, description and by interviewing key members of the community such as politicians, board members, medical staff, and patients, among others, one can capture gaps and solutions surrounding public awareness, community involvement, and complex social issues such as addiction and homelessness. Examining social and health authority structures, bureaucracy, the influence of family support, local economics and the downtown business sector and by reviewing research and academic literature based on other communities and their approaches to these complex issues can help put our own community's needs and potential solutions to the challenges faced by our community into perspective.

This project will rely heavily on descriptive research as well as quantitative data but will not neglect the possibility of including qualitative data. Descriptive analysis will allow for the precision and accuracy of adequately understanding the subject matter as the goal will be to develop a nuanced interpretation of the role and influence of the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center within the community. Observational research design in the field, overtly, as both an observer and as a participant, will be employed. This project will not be limited to the aforementioned research designs and may be subject to the utilization of surveys, action research, comparative research results and case studies. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted and will include a series of previously thought-out questions with room to explore new and potential follow-up questions as well as clarification. Throughout the descriptive,

observational and interview processes, strict confidentiality will be practiced. Names, locations, and stories may be changed to protect the identity of the participant. Participation will only occur voluntarily, and all participants will be treated with dignity and respect. No payments in any form, whether financial or provisionary, will be made to the participants. Observations and descriptions will occur every Friday between the hours of 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm AST during group meetings regarding addiction. Literature reviews, interviews, and other participatory actions will occur every Monday between the hours of 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm AST. This project commenced in September 2019 and will span until mid-April 2019. However, this plan may be subject to change depending of the ongoings of events at the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center and other programs that may be involved, influence, or relate to the projects undertaken by the FDCHC regarding homelessness, addiction, and harm prevention. Outside resources such as other physicians, bureaucrats, or other individuals may alter the timeline in which this research is to take place.

A PowerPoint presentation utilizing images, quotes, and perhaps videos will be produced and presented along with a brief report, which will include ethnographic descriptions, observations, interviews and literature review summaries. In creating a visual representation of the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center, their influences and all their efforts within a PowerPoint presentations as well as in a brief report, the FDCHC can experience their accomplishments as well as discern areas of concern and improvement throughout the community as well as the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center in itself. Our community, much like that of many others, faces issues regarding exposure, responsibility and scarce community participation that pertain to ramifications of homelessness, addiction, and

social differences. No one wants to see homelessness, and so the homeless are pushed out from under bridges and off of park benches. No one wants to see the effects of addiction on our streets. No one wants to see the impacts of poverty and those who are reliant on government-funded social networks for survival and so they too are pushed to the edge of town. Yet no one wants to participate in the solution towards homelessness, the recovery of addicts, or face the realities that many rely on social aids. It is apparent that this is everyone's problem, but no one's problem. Ideally, this major project can aid in bringing public awareness of homelessness, addiction, and poverty to the community while breaking down barriers and eliminating stigma between social classes.