



***Project Launched to Examine Health Needs of Older
Northern Women Experiencing Precarious or No Employment***
Press Release May 3, 2012

UNBC researchers are launching a project to hear from northern women 45 years of age or older who are experiencing precarious/limited/underpaid employment situations or who are unemployed. The purpose of this study is to hear from these women about their health and access to health care services along with the impact of social determinants of health – such as housing and level of income – on their wellbeing. Two main project sites are Fort St. John and Prince George.

As part of the work of Women North Network (WNN)/Northern FIRE - the Centre for Women's Health Research at UNBC – professors Dawn Hemingway, Lela Zimmer and Indrani Margolin are undertaking this work in collaboration with Connie Kaweesi at Northern Lights College and Christina McLennan, WNN Coordinator. Other team members include Lois Lochhead, Research Associate and MSW graduate students Theresa Campbell (Fort St. John) and Lee Anne Deegan (Prince George).

Professor Hemingway, the project's principal investigator indicated: "We are seeking to hear the voices of women from across the North via a survey that is widely available both online and in paper copy. In addition, in both Fort St. John and Prince George, women will have the opportunity to participate in one-on-one interviews or focus group discussions. We hope and expect that the project results will assist Northern Health and other agencies and organizations involved in health related services, to better meet the needs of older women who are experiencing challenges with regard to their employment. It is particularly timely, given that the Northern Health Region has the fastest growing older population in the province."

Anyone who would like to get involved or who wants more information about the project can do so by contacting:

Fort St. John: Theresa Campbell - 250-787-6223 – campb01@unbc.ca

Prince George: Lois Lochhead – 250-960-5284 – lochhead@unbc.ca

Project information is also available at: www.womennorthnetwork.com/current-research-projects

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