

# 2022 - 2023 RESEARCH REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**School of Social Work**

Faculty of Health and Social Development  
Okanagan Campus





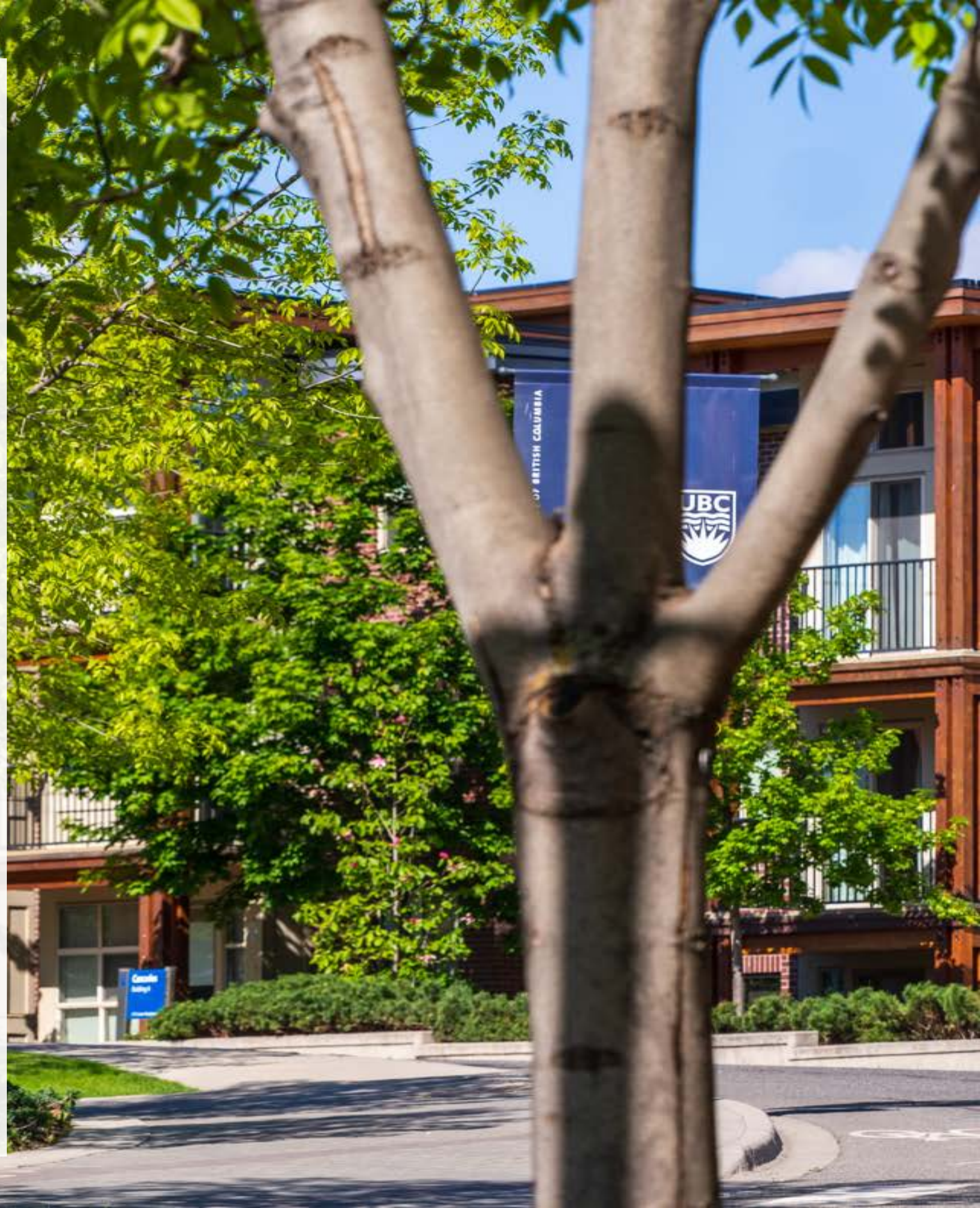
## Land Acknowledgement

The UBC Okanagan School of Social Work is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the syilx Okanagan Peoples.



# CONTENTS

- 4** Messages from Director and Principal's Research Chair
- 5** Faculty Profiles
- 6** Harm Reduction
- 7** Homelessness Prevention
- 8** Graduate Student Research
- 10** Knowledge Translation through Devised Theatre
- 11** Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship
- 12** Kelowna Homelessness Research Centre
- 13** Centre for the Study of Services to Children and Families
- 14** Research Funding and Selected Projects
- 15** Publications: Peer-Reviewed Publications, Book Chapters, and Reports
- 16** Selected Media Interviews







# Message from Director and Principal’s Research Chair

Participating in creating the annual School of Social Work Research Report the past two years has been a privilege. It is exciting and inspiring to see the impactful research that colleagues and graduate students are engaging in.

Across the faculty and students, a common theme emerges. That is, the school’s researchers are engaging with community partners to address current and pressing social issues and effect social change to improve health and social outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

Each year we alternate highlighting the work of different researchers. This year, we have highlighted the important work of Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy’s program of research on harm reduction to respond to the toxic drug crisis; the timely, urgent work of the Kelowna Homelessness Research Centre led by Professor John Graham; and, some creative knowledge translation outputs using devised theatre by Dr. Leyton Schnellert and myself through devised theatre in partnership with the Community Living Society and the Massey Theatre.

In addition, doctoral candidate, Sue Sterling-Bur’s, research on Ntē?kepmx perspectives on education and support for children with differences and disabilities is highlighted along with Master’s student, Emilie Isch’s, research looking at how homelessness impacts small cities.

We hope you enjoy reading about the research work each year of the social work faculty and graduate students.

**Dr. Rachelle Hole**  
Professor and Principal’s Research Chair

The 2022-2023 School of Social Work Research Report provides an excellent overview of the research achievements of our faculty and students.

I agree with Dr. Rachelle Hole’s assessment that there is a common theme of engagement with partners to improve health and wellbeing.

Additionally, the highlights and publications show a remarkable diversity of research areas: homelessness and supportive housing, the toxic drug crisis, child and youth mental health, the rights of people with disabilities to work and to “love and be loved”. This research is relevant to communities, as well as social work practitioners and policy makers, and, crucially, the knowledge is being translated with and for them.

We look forward to following these projects, as well as highlighting new projects in future years’ reports. To all our faculty and students engaged in research, thank you for your contributions to the field of social work.

**Dr. Judy Gillespie**  
Director, School of Social Work



## Faculty Profiles



### **Shelly Ben David, Associate Professor**

Research interests: youth mental health (e.g. clinical high-risk to psychosis, first-episode psychosis, anxiety, depression); early intervention in mental health; identity development and mental illness; cultural, relational, and community-based approach to early psychosis; digital divide among youth; mental health service use decision-making; youth engagement in research. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Shirley Chau Associate Professor**

Research Interests: individuals and communities in transition that experience social marginalization and social exclusion due to race and ethnicity, racialized identities, and racism, class, and factors that influence access to services in the health and social care systems in “large”, “mid-sized”, and “small” cities in Canada. As well, youths at risk of becoming homeless/houseless. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Sarah Dow-Fleisner, Associate Professor**

Research interests: development trajectories and resilient functioning of children and families in high-risk contexts; Parent-child and sibling relationships in families experiencing parental mental illness and substance use; Intervention and prevention programs for families and children; Utilization of advanced statistical methodology to examine complex social phenomenon. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Judy Gillespie, Associate Professor**

Research Interests: Child welfare and the role of community in child and family well-being; Multi-sector collaboration to enhance Indigenous well-being; Interprofessional expertise for child welfare practice; The role of place in well-being; The role of attachment to place in professional retention; Place-based practice. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **John Graham, Professor**

Research Interests: social policy, diversity and social work, spirituality and social work, multicultural social work, and employee well being/ subjective well being (happiness), homelessness prevention research. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Rachelle Hole, Professor and Principal's Research Chair**

Research Interests: 1) a substantial focus on the socio-cultural practices that promote social inclusion and equity, and 2) a methodological focus on community based participatory research methods. Critical disability studies is central to the first stream. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Mary Clare Kennedy, Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair in Substance Use Policy and Practice**

Research Interests: Social-structural dimensions of health among people who use drugs; harm reduction; public policy and health service evaluation. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Jeffrey More, Assistant Professor of Teaching**

Research Interests: Jeffrey integrates his research and teaching to provide optimum learning experiences for students. Ultimately, his research contributions intend to support the search for practice excellence in inclusive clinical social work, child protection and work with Indigenous peoples and communities. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Mary Ann Murphy, Associate Professor**

Research Interests: Constitutional/Charter Litigation & Social Policy Policy and Practice Issues Affecting an Older Population Social Policy and Comparative Family Policy Social Welfare Law and Human Rights: International Human Rights & Aging Aging/Gerontological Social Work Intergenerational Relationships Visual Sociology. [Watch to learn more.](#)



### **Dixon Sookraj, Associate Professor**

Research Interests: Jeffrey integrates his research and teaching to provide optimum learning experiences for students. Ultimately, his research contributions intend to support the search for practice excellence in inclusive clinical social work, child protection and work with Indigenous peoples and communities. Informing anti-colonial practice is significant to his research interests. [Learn more.](#)



## Harm Reduction

### Enhanced guidance on prescribing opioid therapy could reduce overdose risk

**One in five Canadians, or nearly 8 million people, live with chronic pain. While opioid medications are sometimes prescribed by health professionals to help manage pain, they also come with potential harms. A rise in opioid-related harms in Canada has led to the implementation of interventions to restrict opioid prescribing for chronic pain.**

In a 2022 study, Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy and her team at the BC Centre on Substance Use conducted a study to investigate the potential harms of deprescribing opioids for chronic pain. They found that discontinuing opioids prescribed for chronic pain was associated with increased risk of overdose.

The study included people receiving long-term opioid therapy for pain in B.C. between 2014 and 2018. They analyzed the medical histories of 14,037 patients registered with the provincial health insurance client roster in B.C. who had been on opioid therapy for pain for at least 90 days.

Researchers found that discontinuing opioid therapy for chronic pain was associated with increased risk of overdose among people without opioid use disorder (OUD).

Yet the association was stronger in those with OUD, including those not receiving opioid agonist therapy (a treatment for OUD) and those receiving opioid agonist therapy. Finally, tapering opioid therapy was associated with decreased risk of overdose in those with OUD who had not received opioid agonist therapy.

There were 827 overdose events measured among all patients. People with OUD experienced about

half of these overdose events, despite only comprising 5.1 per cent of the entire patient population studied.

Enhanced guidance is needed to support prescribers in implementing safe and effective opioid for pain tapering strategies, with particular consideration of opioid use disorder and prescribed opioid agonist therapy status.

**“Given the increased risk of overdose, sudden discontinuation of opioid treatment for chronic pain should be avoided in almost all instances.”**

**— Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy**

In July 2022, Health Canada announced funding to update the 2017 Canadian Guideline for Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain to incorporate new evidence, research methods and stakeholder feedback.

Dr. Kennedy’s findings point to the need to avoid abrupt discontinuation of opioid treatment for pain and to enhance guidance for prescribers in modifying opioid treatment tapering strategies on the basis of opioid use disorder and opioid agonist therapy status.

While the use of high dose opioids to manage pain can increase the risk of adverse events, untreated pain continues to remain an issue for many patients, and finding the balance of managing pain while using opioids as safely as possible remains a challenge for prescribers.





# Homelessness Prevention

## Meeting healthcare needs in supportive housing

**Housing is a fundamental determinant of health. Once people are housed, they have a more stable living environment. They are likely in a better position to take care of their mental and physical health, including accessing health services.**

Yet in a [study published in the BC Medical Journal](#), Dr. Hannah Gibson and Malcolm Evans, along with John Graham and his research team, concluded that many tenants in supportive housing still perceived barriers to meeting their health needs.

The researchers interviewed 42 tenants and 30 staff members at three supportive housing sites in Kelowna, BC, in 2020. Close to three-quarters—72 per cent —of the tenants said they felt their health needs had gone unmet. Through their interviews, the researchers discovered a number of reasons for this high rate.

Slightly more than half of the tenants—51 per cent—were unaware of the services for treating chronic diseases, and only 36 per cent accesses services for their disease. Lack of awareness of services also largely accounted for dental issues not being addressed.

But when tenants did know how to access services, they encountered other barriers, including difficulties traveling to appointments not within walking distance or incurring cancellation fees or sanctions if they missed appointments. Tenants also reported that at times they felt medical

staff did not treat them with as much dignity as a person not struggling with homelessness or substance use.

Unsurprisingly, they also found that mental health and substance were intricately linked to physical health. For example, home care aides may refuse to provide home health care if the tenant is intoxicated. In some cases, substance use began after a person was housed due to proximity to others.

**I don't know what the resources are, I don't know what my options are or accessibility or anything like that. I feel like I've been housed and that was it... It was a huge transition going from the shelter, where they pretty much wait on you hand and foot ... to independent living, where you just got to do it all by yourself.**

**—Study Participant**

In light of their findings, the researchers discussed potential solutions. “We believe that the best way of addressing this issue is to provide service providers with education and training on mental health and substance use and on the unique challenges faced by street-entrenched populations,” says Dr. Graham.

Tenants and staff also suggested solutions, including a mobile health care team, an on-site multidisciplinary team, or increased access to existing health care services such as on evenings and weekends.

Finally, while supportive housing models can reduce homelessness, the study underscores the need for such ongoing evaluation and the evolution of services and strategies to support tenants healthcare needs.





**“I’m not looking for a framework to fit in to the current systems. Indigenous children need a support system tailored for them that is informed by Indigenous teachings.”**  
— Sue Sterling-Bur, PhD Candidate

## Graduate Student Research

### How might the Indigenous belief in giftedness integrate into work with children and youth with special needs?

In the Nl̓eʔkepmx language there is no word for disability. Rather, the ancestral stories speak of children with disabilities as scmeýtc ʔe xeʔłkʷukʷpiʔ, or Creator’s children, who have made a sacrifice to arrive earthside. For Sue Sterling-Bur, PhD candidate, this provides the foundation of a new framework for families and communities—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous—for supporting children with disabilities.

During her time employed with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Sue felt frustrated by the deficit-based approach towards children with disabilities and found that the processes families would go through to get supports were not aligned with her Nation’s values and beliefs. This motivated her to undertake research to share how the Nl̓eʔkepmx Sptékʔł and Spílʔxʔm narratives may offer insights into fostering overall wellbeing for all children.

“I’m not looking for a framework to fit in to the current systems,” says Sue. “Indigenous children need a support system tailored for them informed by Indigenous teachings.”

Her research includes comparing the ancestral stories—the Nl̓eʔkepmx Sptékʔł narratives—with the stories of elders and knowledge-keepers today—the Nl̓eʔkepmx Spílʔxʔm narratives. Many of the Nl̓eʔkepmx Sptékʔł narratives survive through the recordings and documentation of the anthropologist Franz Boas, which presents some questions as to accuracy. To study the Nl̓eʔkepmx Spílʔxʔm narratives, she interviewed elders and knowledge keepers. She asked them about the stories they had heard and had been passed down to them, and clarified what they had been taught about disability.

Through the comparison of these narratives, she is finding striking consistencies and patterns, which will allow her to delineate a framework with the potential to change the way we view and support

children with disabilities.

For example, in the ancestral story of Sore Man, a child is born who cries all the time, which is interpreted as an invisible disability. As the child cannot be consoled by the family, they turn to skelúleʔ / Owl Woman for external help and support. Skelúleʔ provides the structure and consistency the child needs. She teaches him how to hunt and other traditional practices that are essential to his people’s wellbeing. The child grows into a man who is covered in sores, which are the outer manifestation of trauma or a wound inside the body. Despite his sores, he receives the unconditional love of a woman that helps him to continue on and heal from his sores.

In comparison, in the elders’ stories told to Sue, which she also heard as a young girl, Skelúleʔ / Owl Woman was who would carry off the children if they didn’t return home by nightfall. While in this version of the story, Owl Woman is a more foreboding figure, Sue sees how in both stories Owl Woman is consistently understood as a disciplinarian or one who provides guidance.

“Depending on how guidance and discipline is employed, it can be good or bad,” says Sue. “Enacted well, it is essential in providing structure for children—this may especially be the case for some children with invisible disabilities such as Sore Man when he was a child.”

Sore Man is one of approximately six stories that Sue has identified as including a theme of disability. At this stage in her research, Sue plans to hold two further sharing circles with elders and knowledge-keepers to seek their counsel and affirmation on the language of these stories. She will then begin the writing process. Her vision is to publish a book that serves as a framework advocacy tool for families, communities and care providers.



# Graduate Student Research

## How do libraries mitigate the intersections of homelessness in small cities?

Emilie Isch, Master’s student supervised by Dr. John Graham, is asking the question, how might libraries as a public space help mitigate homelessness.

Her first finding looks at the state of small cities through the changing face of houselessness, urbanization and housing, and community efforts and actions. Her second finding addresses the role of public libraries as social and physical infrastructure.

Her methodology included semi-structured interviews with city staff, planners, environmental and safety coordinators, head librarians, social service workers, and others.

The public library also serves as a site to promote accessibility, and as a site of resistance.

The third finding addresses operations, material, and social needs through positioning digital access as a nuanced discussion.

The fourth finding situates the role of librarians and library staff alongside challenges and barriers, specifically in relational engagement, supporting the staff, de-escalation, training, and skills equipping.

The final finding centres the public library as being in solidarity and as a practice for decolonizing the public library and its operations.

These conclusions outline suggestions for best practices to effectively achieve the overarching argument of the public library’s ability to provide a sense of community, belonging, harm mitigation, safety, and inclusivity, and as a refuge from anthropogenic climate change.

There are several notable contributions from this research, the first argues for an approach to houselessness in small cities that emphasizes the growing role of the public library towards possible interventions. The second contribution showcases how unprecedented situations (like growing urban spaces, the toxic drug crisis, and a lack of supports) merge alongside unhoused patrons and library staff.

**The answers to these research questions may suggest best ways to navigate and operate library spaces and present best practices for librarians and library staff, as well as for the broader community**

**—Emilie Isch**





# Knowledge Translation Through Devised Theatre

## Romance, relationships and rights

**Sexual expression, including the right to love and be loved in romantic relationships and to access sexual health education, is an inherent human right. Yet people with intellectual disabilities often face barriers and stigma when expressing their sexuality and accessing sexual health education.**

To address such discrimination, Drs. Rachelle Hole and Leyton Schnellert, researchers at the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship, in partnership with the Community Living Society and the Anvil Theatre, undertook a theatre-based participatory research project, Romance, Relationships and Rights.

The project began in 2017 when the CEO of the Community Living Society approached Dr. Hole about what the research says about the rights of those with intellectual disabilities to be in romantic relationships. Their conversation sparked the idea for a devised theatre research project. Devised theatre takes a collaborative approach in which an ensemble comes together to research, create and deliver the performance. Key to this project was centring the voices of individuals with intellectual disabilities—who often refer to themselves as self-advocates—in order to disrupt sexual ableism.

Funded by the Vancouver Foundation, the project entailed five phases: 1) engage self-advocates in a qualitative study to explore their experiences with sexual health education; 2) create a theatre company and draft a script; 3) put on five performances; 4) engage in further knowledge translation, including an invited closing keynote performance at Inclusion BC's 2019 annual conference; and 5) publish five additional research articles.

The scenes were crafted based on the messages of the self-advocate co-creators. The overarching message, as stated by one self-advocate co-creator was: "Despite your circumstances or disability, you have the right to love and be loved."

The play was a huge success. More than 1,000 audience members—including other self-advocates, service providers, support workers, family members, and the public—attended the five performances.

Not surprisingly, the self-advocates were eager to engage in another theatre project. They decided to explore how people with intellectual disabilities also face barriers to work. They conducted research with self-advocate employees, employment coaches, and inclusive employers. Their research informed the scenes for the second play, We Deserve to Work!

We Deserve to Work was performed four times at the Massey Theatre and subsequently at the World Congress of Supported Employment as the closing keynote. A conference attended by over 600 people from over 80 different countries in Vancouver in June 2023 and at the BC Council of Administrators of Inclusive Support Education meetings in the spring 2023.

**Whether or not people live with a disability or limitations, we all have the right to a relationship, to say no, to take action, the right to friendships and to romance.**

**—Larissa Gunkel, Actor and Co-Creator**







## Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship

**The Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship (CIIC) is the only university based research institute in Canada with a dedicated focus on intellectual disability policy and practice.**

CIIC operates as partnership between UBC, community living organizations, and supporters seeking to further the inclusion and full citizenship of people with intellectual disabilities and their families locally, nationally and globally.

CIIC has a strong presence on both UBC campuses, with Co-Director Professor Rachelle Hole at UBC Okanagan and Co-Director Professor Tim Stainton at UBC Vancouver, as well as a lead and co-lead for each research stream with representation from both campuses. The research streams include:

- Policy, Practice and Ethics
- Employment and Transitions
- Advancing Equal Access for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Workplace
- Health and Well-Being of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families Across the Life-Course

The research informs policy and practice leading to new and better ways to achieve a more inclusive community. As its mission suggests, the Institute seeks to contribute through learning, research, and knowledge mobilization.

The highlighted projects from 2022-2023 include:

- Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)
- Understanding and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of parents and caregivers of children and youth with special needs in British Columbia
- IMPACT Youth Employment Project
- Advancing Equal Access for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Workplace
- We Deserve to Work!
- Evidence to Inform Policy and Practice in the Community Living Sector
- Implementing Physical Activity Programs in Communities for Children with Neurodisabilities

For more information, see the [CIIC's Annual Report 2022-2023](#).





## Kelowna Homelessness Research Centre

**The Kelowna Homelessness Research Centre (KHRC) explores the intersecting facets of homelessness in small and medium sized cities within and beyond the Okanagan, BC, in order to offer evidence-based approaches to mitigate and end homelessness.**

KHRC's mission is threefold: one, guide upstream actions to support vulnerable populations and prevent homelessness; two, improve services to enhance the lives and trajectories of those currently experiencing homelessness; and three, orient supports to sustain successful exits out of homelessness.

KHRC's research represents a mix of inquiry into the local homelessness context, multi-site comparisons with other jurisdictions, as well as reviews of the broader literature. UBC Eminence funding supports three categories:

- Technology
- Stigma
- Health and Human Service Improvements

Recent projects include:

- Organisational Changes to Address Homelessness: Lessons Learned from 3 Mid-sized Canadian Cit-

ies (2020-2023, SSHRC Insight Grant)

- The Impact of COVID-19 on Youth Homelessness & Service Provision (2020-2022, Making the Shift)
- Creating Allyship in Research (2020-2022, Enactus Canada in partnership with the John Dobson Foundation Faculty Advisor Research Grant)
- Examining the effectiveness of integrated housing, mental health and addiction service models for youth experiencing homelessness (2020-2024, Making the Shift)
- Homelessness Research in Kelowna: Journey Home Research Cluster (2019-2022, UBC Eminence)
- Kelowna Homelessness Research Centre (2019-2023, SSHRC Partnership Development Grant)

Learn more at <https://khrc.ok.ubc.ca/>





## Centre for the Study of Services to Children and Families

**The Centre for the Study of Services to Children and Families (CSSCF) was developed to advance research on child welfare services and focuses on evidence-based practices, organizational factors related to service quality, as well as racial biases and disparities. The research supports services in applying innovative strategies within their practice for children and families.**

Dr. Sarah Dow-Fleisner joined the CSSCF in 2019 under the mentorship of Dr. Susan Wells, founder and Emerita Professor, and started as the Director in June 2021. In May 2022, Dr. Barbara Lee (UBC-Vancouver) and Dr. Sarah Dow-Fleisner began working together, and Dr. Lee joined the CSSCF as a Director working on the Vancouver campus. In August 2021, Drs. Lee and Dow-Fleisner were awarded a UBC Collaborative Mobility Award with the goal of developing the CSSCF as a virtual and physical hub for research, student training, and knowledge dissemination. Drs. Dow-Fleisner and Lee continue to partner as co-Directors for the CSSCF.

The CSSCF's research mission is to inform the development of evidence-informed practice and policies impacting and supporting children, youth, and families through qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research.

In service of its mission, the CSSCF addresses three main areas:

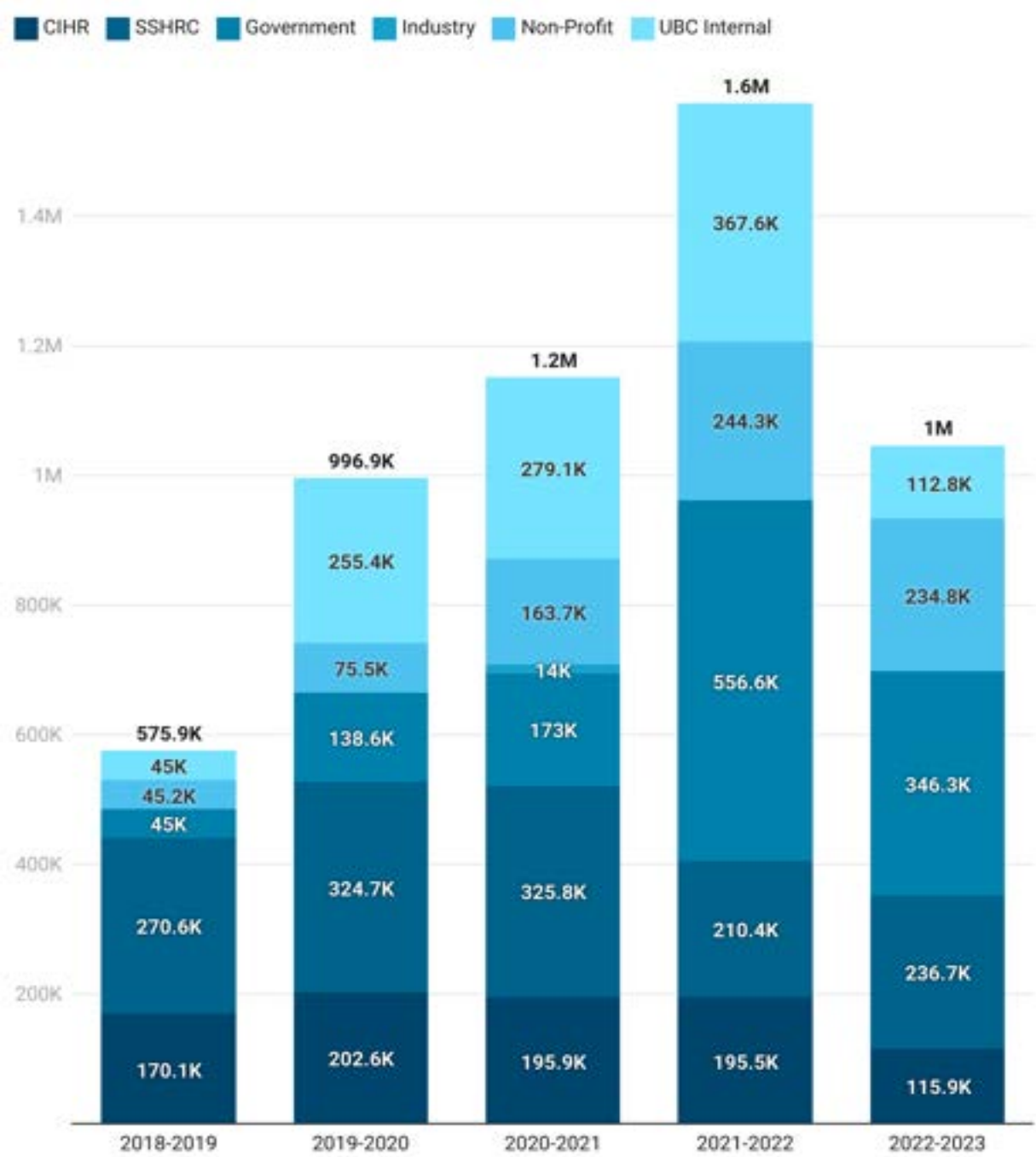
- Factors Impacting Wellbeing
- Implementation and Evaluation
- Education and Training

Recent projects include:

- The ADAPT Project: Adaptation, Development, and Positive Trajectories in the Context of Childhood Adversity (Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar Award, 2021-2026)
- Engaging in Critical Conversations to Transform Child Welfare Praxis in British Columbia (SSHRC Connections Grant, 2024-2025)
- Strengthening Kinship Care in British Columbia: Leveraging Research and Advocacy for Comprehensive Supports for Children, Youth, and Families (UBC Community-University Engagement Support Fund, 2024)
- Child Protective Services Organizational Environment, Practice, & Outcomes (SSHRC 2017-2022)
- Exploring the Barriers and Facilitators for Effective Child Welfare Intervention for Asian-Canadian Children and Families: Perspectives of Service Users and Service Providers (SSHRC 2017-2022)
- Promising Practices for Children and Youth: A Model of Canada-China Collaboration (SSHRC Partnership Grant, 2020-2023)
- Child Maltreatment and the Trajectory of Adult Well-being Among Ethno-racial Communities: Results from the Canadian Community Health Survey (UBC Hampton Fund, 2019-2023)
- Using Simulation in Social Work Education Specializing in Children and Families (UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, 2018-2023)
- Evaluating Decision-making and Relationship Competence when Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SSHR Development Grant, 2018-2023)



# Research Funding



# Selected Research Projects

- Ben-David, S.** (2019-2024). Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research BC Scholar Award. Understanding service use decision-making and improving engagement among youth and young adults with mental health disorders. \$450,000. Shelly has partnered with Foundry BC to understand the decision-making process and barriers to access that youth and young adults living with mental health challenges and their families experience when accessing mental health services.
- Dow-Fleisner, S.J.** (2021 – 2026). Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. The ADAPT Project: Adaptation, Development, and Positive Trajectories in the context of childhood adversity \$450,000. This project uses advanced statistical methods and qualitative methods to examine positive adaptation in adversity affected populations
- Gillespie, J.** (2019 – 2024). SSHRC Insight Grant. Enhancing Evaluation Methodologies in Multisector Community Change Initiatives: The Role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems \$306,000. This community-engaged project highlights ways of engaging in respectful, responsible, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous collaborators.
- Graham, J.R.** (2019 – 2026). UBC Okanagan Eminence Program. Homelessness Research Cluster. \$763,230. The Eminence funding is pivotal to the Kelowna Homelessness Research Center, which John leads, and to the community engaged, interdisciplinary research that the Center does locally and nationally.
- Hole, R.** (Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2025). BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. IMPACT 2.0: Evaluating Youth Employment Interventions. \$142,000. In partnership with the BC Employment Network, IMPACT 2.0 is a second three 3-year grant to evaluate the effectiveness of employment interventions for transitioning youth with developmental disabilities
- Kennedy, M.C. & Kerr, T.** (Mar. 2022- Mar. 2025). Scientific evaluation of the Safer Alternative for Emergency Response (SAFER) program. \$200,000. Conducted in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and PHS Community Services Society, this study is evaluating the effectiveness of the SAFER program, which provides pharmaceutical alternatives to unregulated drugs, including several fentanyl medication options, to people at risk of drug poisoning.



# Publications

School of Social Work faculty denoted in **blue**  
Students underlined

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

Cassie, R., Hayashi, K., DeBeck, K., Milloy, M.J., Cui, Z., Strike, C., West, J., & **Kennedy MC.** (2022). Difficulty accessing supervised consumption services during the COVID-19 pandemic among people who use drugs in Vancouver, Canada. *Harm Reduction Journal*. 19(1):126.

**Dow-Fleisner, S.**, Lomness, A. & Woolgar, L. (2022). Impact of Safe Consumption Facilities on Individual and Community Outcomes: A Scoping Review. *Emerging Trends in Drugs, Addictions, and Health*, 2(100046), 1-13 Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.etdah.2022.100046>

**Dow-Fleisner, S.**, Seaton, C. L., Li, E., Plamondon, K., Oelke, N., Kurtz, D., . . . Rush, K. (2022). Internet access is a necessity: A cross-sectional analysis of challenges and technology use among rural community residents during COVID-19. *BMH Public Health*, 22(845), 1-11. Retrieved from Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-13254-1>

Giannone, Z., **Ben-David, S.**, Cox, D.W., & Kealy, D. (2022). Emerging Adults’ Experiences of Brief Group Interventions: Two Approaches to Possible Selves. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 35:2, 444-466.

Gibson, H., Evans, M., Woodmass, K., Laing., S., & **Graham, J. R.** (2023). Health care in supportive housing facilities. *BCMJ*, 65(4), 116-121.

**Gillespie, J.** Cosgrave, C. & Malatzky, C. (2022) Making the case for place-based governance in rural health workforce recruitment and retention: Lessons from Canada and Australia. *Social Sciences and Humanities Open*, 6(1), 100356. Doi: [org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2022.100356](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2022.100356)

**Gillespie, J.**, Cosgrave, C., Malatzky, C. & Carden, C. (2022). Sense of place, place attachment, and belonging-in-place in empirical research: A scoping review for rural health workforce research. *Health and Place*, 74. Doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102756

Gubskaya, E., **Kennedy, M.C.**, Hayashi, K., Cui, Z., Milloy, M.J., & Kerr, T. (2023). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to supervised consumption programs. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*. 18(1):1-7.

Higgs, R., Liao, A, Windsor, T, & **Ben-David, S.** (March 2023). Meeting in the middle: Experiences of citizenship in commu-

nity-engaged psychosis research. *Journal of Public Mental Health*, Vol.22, 1, 12-24.

Kealy, D., **Ben-David, S.**, & Cox, D. (2022). Early parental support and meaning in life among young adults: The mediating roles of optimism and identity. *Current Psychology*, 41, 3865-3872.

Kealy, D., **Ben-David, S.**, Spidel, A, Wadsley-Rose, S., & Kim., D. (2022). Self-reassurance moderated by identity dysfunction: Associations with distress and impairment. *Journal of Counselling & Development*, 100(2), 205-214.

**Kennedy, M.C.**, Crabtree, A., Nolan, S., Mok, W.Y., Cui, Z., Chong, M., Slaunwhite, A., & Ti, L. (2022). Discontinuation and tapering of prescribed opioids and risk of overdose among people on long-term opioid therapy for pain with and without opioid use disorder: A retrospective cohort study. *PLOS Medicine*. 19(12):e1004123.

**Kennedy, M.C.**, Karamouzian, M., & Marshall, B. (2022). The North American opioid crisis: How effective are supervised consumption sites? *The Lancet*. 400(10361):1403-4.

**Kennedy, M.C.**, Milloy, M.J., Hayashi, K., Compton, M., & Kerr, T. (2022). Health impacts of a scale-up of supervised injection services in a Canadian setting: An interrupted time series analysis. *Addiction*. 117(4):986-997.

Klaire, S., Sutherland, C., Kerr, T., & **Kennedy, M.C.** (2022). A low-barrier, flexible safe supply program to prevent deaths from overdose. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 194(19):E74-6. Note: This article was selected as the Editor’s Choice article for the May 16, 2022 issue of *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

MacKinnon, L., Choi, J., **Kennedy, M.C.**, Brar, R., Milloy, M.J., Hayashi, K., & Socías, M.E. (2022). Medical detoxification for non-opioid substances is associated with lower likelihood of subsequent linkage to substance use disorder treatment. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*. 16(6):653-8.

Michalak, E.E., Barnes, S.J., Morton, E., O’Brien, H., Murray, G., **Hole, R.**, & Meyer, D. (2022). Supporting self-management and quality of life in bipolar disorder with the Beta PolarUs App: Protocol for a mixed-methods study. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. 4;11 (8): e36213. doi: 10.2196/36213

Rush, K. L., Seaton, C. L., Corman, K., Hawe, N., Li, E., **Dow-Fleisner, S.**, . . . Pesut, B. (2022, July). Virtual Care Prior to and During COVID-19: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Rural and Urban Adults. *JMIR Formative Research*, 6(8), e37059. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.2196/37059>

Seaton, C.L., Rondier, P., Rush, K.L., Li, E., Plamondon, K., Pesut, B., **Dow-Fleisner, S.**, ...Bottorff, J. L. (2022). Community Stakeholder-Driven Technology Solutions Towards Rural Health Equity: A Concept Mapping Study in Western Canada. *Health Expectations*.

Struik, L., Werstuik, S., Sundstrom, A., **Dow-Fleisner, S.** & **Ben-David, S.** (2022). Factors that Influence the Decision to Vape among Indigenous Youth. *BMC Public Health*, 22. Retrieved from Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-13095-y>

Tidey, L., Schnellert, L., & **Hole, R.** (2022). “Everyone should get the chance to love”: Sexual health education and disability research-based theatre with self-advocates. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 31 (2), 198 – 206.

Weaver, V., **Kennedy, M.C.** (2022). Importance of opioid agonist therapy to reduce injection-related infections. *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*. 9(6):ofac145.

## Book Chapters

Clark, N., **More, J.**, Kenoras-Duck Chief, L., Johnston-Virgo, D., Matthew, S., Anonymous, Manuel, N., and Derrick, J. (2022). No one cares more about your community than you: Approaches to wellness and healing with Secwépemc children and youth. In D. Baines (Ed.), *Doing Anti-Oppressive Social Work Book* (pp.308-331).

**Graham, J.R.**, Walsh, C., Belanger, Y. Homelessness in Canada. In Bevan, C.W. (Ed.) *Homelessness: International Perspectives*. London/New York/Toronto/Sydney: Routledge International.

## Reports

**Dow-Fleisner, S. J.**, Conradt, E., Garber, J., Hill, N., Lefkowitz, E., & the SRCD Presidential Working Group Research Assistants. (2023, March). *The Impact of Overturning Roe v. Wade for Children and Families*. Report by the Society for Research on Child Development Presidential Working Group, Salt Lake City, United States (p. 19).

**Gillespie, J.** (2021) Embedding children and families in community. Policy Brief Submitted to the Office of the Representative for Children and Families in BC. (21 pp).

**Hole, R.**, Reid, C., & Mudde, L. (Jan. 2023). *IMPACT: A summative report of IMPACT 1.0*. The UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship in partnership with the BC Employment Network. Funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. 79 pages.

**Hole, R.**, Reid, C., & Mudde, L. (Jan. 2023). *IMPACT: Cohort 3 Report*. The UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship in partnership with the BC Employment Network. Funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. 55 pages.

**Kennedy MC**, Kerr T. (2022). A preliminary evaluation of a fentanyl patch prescription program. *Vancouver Coastal Health: Vancouver, BC*. p.1-25.

Sharma, R., Asselin, R., Stainton, T., & **Hole, R** PI. (Jan. 2023). *Ableism and Employment: A rapid review of the literature*. The UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship. Funded by the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner. 93 pages.

Sharma, R., Mason, B., March, C., Stainton, T., & **Hole, R** PI. (June 2022). A rapid review of the impacts of COVID-19 on BIPOC with disabilities and their networks. The UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship. 35 pages.

Stainton, T., **Hole, R** PI., Christianson-Barker, J., & Morris, R. (2022). Summary and Synthesis Findings from the New Inclusive Economies Project: Environmental Scan. The UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship in partnership with the Inclusion Powell River and the Social Research and Development Corporation. 17 pages.

Stainton, T., **Hole, R** PI., Christianson-Barker, J., & Morris, R. (2022). Advancing equal access for people with intellectual disabilities in the workplace project. The UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship, Inclusion Canada, and People First Canada. 11 pages.



## Selected Media Interviews

**Ben-David, Shelly.** Improving Youth Mental Health. 2022 Oct. 9. <https://news.ok.ubc.ca/2022/10/0tal-health/>

**Dow-Fleisner, Sarah.** Why early intervention in youth mental health is important, according to expert. Online (globalnews.ca). <https://globalnews.ca/video/9333964/why-early-intervention-in-youth-mental-health-according-to-expert>

**Graham, John.** Did Billions in Spending Make a Dent in Homelessness? Canada Doesn't Know. 2022 Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/19/world/canada/canada-homeless-housing-market.html>





The School of Social Work produces high impact international research intended to respond to the diverse needs of individuals and communities.

**Learn more about research in the School of Social Work**

<https://socialwork.ok.ubc.ca/research>