Increasing Capacity for Oral Health (ICOH)

What’s it all about?
Increasing Capacity to Inform Oral Health Policy Regarding Vulnerable Populations and the KT Plan (ICOH)

✔ Canadian health care system priority
... select and deliver effective health care services
➤ Oral health care excluded
➤ Vulnerable populations
  ➔ Least access to oral health care
  ➔ Poor oral health
What are the consequences of poor oral health?

➤ Burden of pain and suffering
➤ Diminished self-esteem and social interaction
➤ Diminished employability
➤ Increased marginalization
What will help to improve oral health overall?

➤ Understand the oral health needs of the population, especially vulnerable groups

➤ Consider the positive impacts of oral health across the lifespan

➤ Use evidence to inform policy decisions
Population Needs?

Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry Collaboration of Oral Health Researchers (COHR) committed to

➤ improve oral health, especially vulnerable populations
➤ build capacity for oral health research
➤ build strong partnerships with community and decision-makers
How?

Build the necessary *links* between assessment of needs and oral health services
ICOH… a group of COHR

➤ A response to a call from CIHR for research on the oral health of vulnerable populations

➤ One of 4 SEED grants in Canada
Goal of ICOH

“…to unite our multidisciplinary knowledge and experience to increase the capacity within both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador to inform policy regarding the oral health of vulnerable populations, beginning with seniors.”
Specific Aims of ICOH

1. Build a network of stakeholders for seniors oral health in NL similar to NS
2. Demonstrate the NS oral health assessment protocol for seniors using telehealth technology
3. Establish an interprovincial team
Interprovincial Team

Capture the synergy of

➤ NL oral health policy and planning and delivery stakeholders

➤ NS research teams assessment capacity and community collaboration experience
How?

➤ Forum
➤ Key informant interviews
➤ Document Analysis
➤ Demonstration of NS oral health assessment protocol
➤ Workshop to share outcomes
HOW?
Knowledge Translation and Exchange (KTE)

Essential to have new knowledge available to, and usable by

➤ The public
➤ Decision-makers
➤ Other researchers
## The ICOH Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nova Scotia</th>
<th>Newfoundland Labrador</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Clovis</td>
<td>Stephen Bornstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deb Matthews</td>
<td>Catherine Donovan</td>
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<td>Mark Filiaggi</td>
<td>Peter Hornett</td>
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<td>Mary McNally</td>
<td>Suzanne Brake</td>
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<td>Sandra Crowell</td>
<td>Angela Batstone</td>
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<td>Martha Brilliant</td>
<td>Wanda Legge</td>
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<td><strong>Alberta</strong></td>
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<td>Sandra Cobban</td>
<td>Kelly Heisz</td>
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<td>David Reynolds</td>
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Collaboration and Partnership

➤ Each team member brings special knowledge and perspective
➤ Each is willing to share and learn
➤ Everyone wants better oral health for all!
Forum - a beginning

of a collaboration

➤ from which we can all learn

➤ that will lead to better oral health