

November 29, 2012

### ACEWH's Newest Researchers Win IWK Poster Award

Ellen Taylor and Andrew Jantzen, research assistants at the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health ([www.acewh.dal.ca](http://www.acewh.dal.ca)), earned top marks at the Nov. 8 IWK Interdisciplinary Research Conference for their poster presentation on LGBTQ Health in Canada: A Call for a New Approach ([http://www.acewh.dal.ca/pdf/2012\\_LGBTQ-Health-poster.pdf](http://www.acewh.dal.ca/pdf/2012_LGBTQ-Health-poster.pdf)). Their presentation highlighted the unaddressed health care needs of LGBTQ individuals.

The concept of healthy living in Canada has become a common focus in public health discourse. With increasing panic surrounding unhealthy body weights, poor diets, and sedentary behaviour, many Canadians have at least some idea of what a healthy living campaign looks like. Despite the Public Health Agency of Canada's acknowledgement that social determinants of health have concrete impacts on individuals' and communities' ability to experience healthy living, the Healthy Living



Ellen Taylor and Andrew Jantzen

Strategy, which has been implemented, still only focuses on individualized components of health such as body weight, eating habits and physical exercise. Factors such as sexual orientation and gender identity continue to be ignored as important indicators. This is important as LGBTQ communities have high rates of depression, homelessness, poverty, alcohol and substance abuse, experiences of violence, and risks of suicide.

A panel of judges highlighted the top three posters and awarded gift certificates to the presenters.