

# Media Release



Monday, March 26, 2007: Halifax, Nova Scotia

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## **Black women's health in rural communities: study results unveiled**

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**A** landmark study of the health of black women in rural Nova Scotia will conclude with the release of the results this week.

*On the Margins: Understanding and Improving Black Women's Health in Rural and Remote Nova Scotia Communities* is a three-and-a-half-year research project led by Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard Director of Dalhousie's School of Social Work, and funded by CIHR. The project consisted of a team researchers, the majority of whom are of Black Canadian, who examined the degree to which (in)accessibility to health care services, facilities, and health care providers has had an impact on Black Nova Scotian women and their communities in rural and remote areas. More specifically, the background of the OTM project centres on an investigation of health status, health care delivery and health services utilization among African Canadians residing in the towns and villages ranging along the south and west shores of the province – from Liverpool to Annapolis Royal.

The results will be announced at a media conference **Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 PM, Birchtown Community Centre, 23 Old Birchtown Rd., Birchtown, N.S.** (outside Shelburne), hosted by the Black Loyalist Society.

Three African Nova Scotian facilitators working with the project have undertaken community consultations to inform the questions and methods of the study. In addition, they have completed in-depth, one-on-one interviews with 270 African Nova Scotian women living in Shelburne, Liverpool, Yarmouth, Weymouth, Digby and Annapolis counties and have analyzed this rich body of data.

The study's findings indicate that African Nova Scotian women in this region face many of the same health and access challenges that confront others living in rural and remote locations. There are not enough doctors, there are not enough services. But the capacity of African Nova Scotian women to achieve and maintain health – their own and that of their loved ones – is seriously compromised by conditions of poverty, discrimination, racism and exclusion.

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