



Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health

The Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University and IWK Health



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF MEDICINE



IWK Health



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SUN LIFE CHAIR IN YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

The Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health was established to support research in adolescent mental health in the Atlantic region and beyond, with the goal of improving mental health care for young people. The chair was visioned in 1998 by a local family who was directly impacted by youth suicide. This grass roots organization, Reaching Out, supported the first regional youth mental health symposium in 1999 at a time when youth mental health was not adequately recognized and poorly resourced. Their efforts and advocacy led to the subsequent creation of a Chair in Adolescent Mental Health at Dalhousie in partnership with Reaching Out and IWK Health. Community members and Sun Life came together to contribute over \$2 million to establish this endowment in 2001. In 2022, the Chair was renamed the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health to reflect current science in brain development and mental health disorders in young people.

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POSITION PROFILE

The Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University and IWK Health are accepting applications for the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health. The successful applicant will lead the development of a clinical research program which will further develop innovative, evidence-based interventions in youth mental health and mental illness. It is expected the Chair will work collaboratively with other research groups, regionally, nationally, and internationally as well as within Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre.

We wish to attract a talented and energetic leader (MD and/or PhD) with an excellent, established record of research accomplishments related to youth mental health. The successful applicant will demonstrate the ability to develop and direct an internationally recognized research program in mental illness/mental health, emphasizing the potential for translation and application to clinical practice. Applicants shall be collaborative and committed to the development of a strategy for youth mental health research, clinical practices and community outreach in the region and beyond. A demonstrated ability to attract external funding and sustain a strong research program is essential.

The incumbent will be expected to compete successfully in regional, national and international funding competitions to further enhance the productivity of their

research program. The ability to fulfill roles as a leader, mentor, collaborator and facilitator is an important asset. Evidence of outstanding collaborative, interdisciplinary research achievements, both nationally and internationally are valued attributes. Experience in clinical research working with diverse and equity-deserving populations is highly recommended for this Chair position.



The IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program provides a full range of mental health and psychiatric treatments for children, and adolescents up until their 19th birthday, within a patient and family-centered context, with 50,000 visits per year provided by over 450 interprofessional staff and 17 Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists. Psychiatric services are integrated within the program which includes community clinics, specialty clinics, intensive services, addiction services, forensic services, emergency psychiatric services and an acute psychiatry inpatient unit. The specific care clinics provide consultation services related to their specialty areas to child and adolescent psychiatrists within the Maritime Provinces. The IWK inpatient psychiatric unit is a provincial child and adolescent unit for acute severe psychiatric illness requiring inpatient psychiatric care. The IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program has a strong continuous improvement process that facilitates real-time, data-informed decision-making with the aim of enhancing patient-centered outcomes, access to high quality care, and staff experience.

The Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry is home to six academic chairs: The Killam Chair in Mood Disorders, the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health, the Dr. Paul Janssen Chair in Psychotic Disorders, and three Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) in the following areas: Early Intervention; Addictions and Mental Health; and Developmental Psychopathology and Youth Mental Health. The IWK Health Centre undertakes significant research into disorders and diseases affecting women, children, youth and families and is home to two of these CRCs, as well as the Sobey Family Chair in Child & Adolescent Mental Health Outcomes (Department of Community Health and Epidemiology).

The Chair reports to the IWK Chief of Psychiatry and Head of the Department of Psychiatry. Working closely with the Faculty of Medicine, the IWK Health Centre, and mental health researchers and clinicians, the Chair will:



- ▶ Develop and lead a clinical research program in youth mental health with input from the Head, Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry and Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Medicine and Head, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; the IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program and VP Research, IWK Health Centre
- ▶ Develop and lead a clinical research program in youth mental health with input from the Head, Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry and Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Medicine and Head, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; the IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program and VP Research, IWK Health Centre, Associate and the Chair, Advisory Board of the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health (once established).
- ▶ Conduct independent externally funded research in aspects of youth mental health that are in keeping with the strategic plan/goals of the Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine and IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program.
- ▶ Participate in clinical activities consistent with the research programs with clinical reporting relationships within IWK Health, and the expectation of 25% clinical and 75% research time allocation (if the chair is a clinician/physician).
- ▶ In conjunction with other leaders in research, develop a training program directed toward producing independent researchers in youth mental health.

The successful candidate will be appointed to a five-year limited term appointment as the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health and to an academic appointment at the rank of Associate or Full Professor (commensurate with qualifications) in the Department of Psychiatry at Dalhousie University. The Chair appointment is renewable and subject to a successful review prior to the end of each five-year term.

Location Profile

Halifax is a perfect paradox. We are where land meets sea, old meets new, urban meets rural, and traditional meets trendy. We balance a relaxing pace with modern urban amenities and affordability with world class-experiences. We value our strong historical ties but drive to shake up the norm. This perfect balance makes Halifax one of the best places in the world to visit, no matter what a visitor is looking for. See for yourself in [this video](#).



Halifax has a rich and varied history that is reflected in the diversity of its population. The Mi'kmaw people have been living in the area for thousands of years and call it Kjiptuk (The Great Harbour). The City of Halifax was founded on unceded Mi'kmaw land in 1749 when an English settlement was built on sacred land. Today, there are 13 Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq remain the predominant Indigenous group within the province. A growing proportion of the Mi'kmaw population resides in Halifax.

Importantly, Halifax is also home to a large historic African Nova Scotian community. Many African Nova Scotians have ancestral connections to the province that date as far back as the 17th and 18th centuries. Between 1782 and 1785, about 3,500 Black Loyalists who came as refugees after the American Revolution settled throughout the province, including a large number in Halifax. There are 52 historic African Nova

Scotian communities, one of them being the community of Africville, which was located on the edge of the Halifax Harbour. This thriving, close-knit community stood for over a century until it was systematically demolished by the city of Halifax in the late 1960s. In 2010, the Mayor of Halifax made a public apology for the razing of the community which is now recognized as one of one of the first free black communities outside of Africa. Today, visitors and community members alike can learn about the important story of Africville and other historic Black communities, many of which thrive today, at places like the Africville Museum, the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia and the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre.

As the historical entryway to Canada, Halifax has a long history of immigration and immigration continues to be the main driver of population growth in Halifax. Halifax had the third fastest population growth in 2019, and the second-fastest in 2020 across all cities in Canada. The largest component of growth in both years was international migration. Halifax is a city where immigrants have settled from more than 168 different countries, where over 100 different languages are spoken, and where each of the last 10 years was record-breaking for international student enrolment.

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit an electronic copy of your curriculum vitae, a research statement, and the names and contact information of three referees (two of whom must be from academic backgrounds) who may be contacted for references if required. All applications must be submitted via this link, <https://dal.peopleadmin.ca/postings/15092>.

Review of applications will begin March 1, 2024 and continue until position is filled. All applications are to be submitted via PeopleAdmin.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Dalhousie University commits to achieving inclusive excellence through continually championing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. The university encourages applications from Indigenous persons (especially Mi'kmaq), persons of Black/African descent (especially African Nova Scotians), and members of other racialized groups,

persons with disabilities, women, and persons identifying as members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of our community. For more information, please visit www.dal.ca/hiringfordiversity.

Dalhousie University recognizes its obligation to accommodate candidates in order to ensure full, fair, and equitable participation in the hiring process. Our complete Accommodation Policy can be viewed online: www.dal.ca/policies. For further information about this position, or to request accommodation at any stage of the hiring process, please contact Kaitlyn Farrell at Kaitlyn.farrell@dal.ca.

For More Information

- ▶ To view the Department of Psychiatry's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan [click here](#).
- ▶ To view the Department of Psychiatry's 2022/2023 Annual Report [click here](#).
- ▶ To view the Faculty of Medicine's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan [click here](#).
- ▶ For more on beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia [click here](#)
- ▶ For more on the IWK Health Centre [click here](#).
- ▶ For more on Dalhousie University [click here](#)

