

Public Health Association of Nova Scotia (PHANS) 2013 Public Health Champion Award



Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed

The Public Health Association of Nova Scotia is delighted to congratulate Dr. Watson-Creed.

On November 25, 2013, at the Annual General Meeting of the Public Health Association of Nova Scotia, Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, Medical Health Officer from Capital District Health Authority was selected as the recipient of the 2013 Public Health Champion Award. The annual award recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated leadership, commitment and innovation in improving the health of Nova Scotians.

Nominated by Hannah Moffatt, Knowledge Translation Specialist at the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH)^{***}, Dr. Watson-Creed is described as a “dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the role public health can play in advancing health equity. In supporting the development of the first population health status report for Capital Health, Dr. Watson-Creed championed the use of disparity measures, and worked hard to better understand the data by engaging their Community Health Boards. Watson-Creed is quoted as attributing their success to a team effort, stating “The team we have at Capital Health, and the interest of the Community Health Board members throughout the process, has been tremendous.”

According to Ms. Moffatt, “Not only has Dr. Watson-Creed been a leader in Nova Scotia, She has been directly involved in an innovative learning approach during the development of the region’s first population health status report. In partnership with the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, Capital Health became the practice example as a learning site for the [NCCDH’s Learning Circle Initiative](#) that met regularly to explore how to integrate health equity into population health status reporting. This required Capital Health to share their struggles and achievements over the course of a year so that the public health community could learn from their experience. It proved to be an invaluable learning opportunity and has resulted in the development of a framework that will be a useful guide for other health organizations. Dr. Watson-Creed continually seeks out opportunities to strengthen the health equity work at Capital Health. She leads by example and demonstrates her commitment to advancing health equity on a daily basis. Not only does she support her staff to ask the essential “why?” questions as they work to get to the root of an issue, she is constantly applying this approach to her own practice. She is never satisfied unless she is moving the work as far upstream as possible. Generous with her time, Dr. Watson-Creed has sought to support other public health practitioners in their commitment to addressing the social determinants of health and advancing health equity.”

^{***}: <http://nccdh.ca/blog/entry/dr.-gaynor-watson-creed#sthash.JaUyzfjW.dpuf>