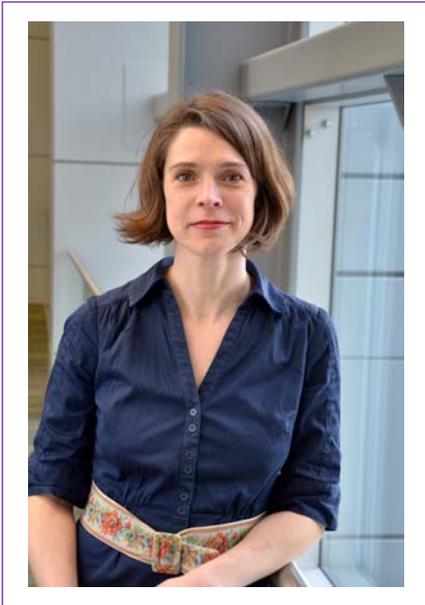


Nancy J. Bedingfield



Biography

Nancy is a first year PhD student of Health Services Research in the Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary. She obtained a Master of Science degree from the University of Alberta, School of Public Health, Global Health Stream in 2008. Her thesis work for this degree provided her with the incredible opportunity to learn about the people and the culture of Uganda through research. Her research project was qualitative and focused on understanding the psychosocial changes for patients and caregivers after the introduction of highly active anti-retroviral therapy.

Nancy comes to her Doctoral Studies with 15 years of experience as a Community Health Nurse. Her primary practice areas are tuberculosis care and postpartum care in the community. A deep knowledge of the health care system from the perspective of a front line care provider is a great asset to Nancy as a health services researcher and will increase the knowledge translation potential of her work.

Nancy's research interests are motivated by her nursing experience. She would like her work to result in prevention and promotion programs, which are designed with consideration of the social determinants of health of the communities most in need of these services. Nancy is especially looking forward to learning more about Indigenous understandings of health and how to combine Indigenous ways of knowing with current models of health services research to produce more culturally safe services.

Project Summary

Enhancing HPV Immunization in Alberta First Nations Communities: A Comparative Case Study Approach

An important priority of public health programs is the reduction of health inequity. If prevention-oriented health programs are not designed collaboratively, with the intention of meeting the needs

of communities facing barriers to accessing services, there is a possibility that public health programs could increase health inequities.

The EHVINA project (Enhancing HPV Vaccination in First Nations Populations in Alberta) is working to ensure that HPV vaccination in Alberta is successful in reducing the inequitable burden of HPV-related cancers in Alberta. This will be done by working with communities to gain a better understanding of current HPV vaccination rates and designing an intervention to increase these rates in grade 5 First Nations children, living on-reserve in Alberta.

Nancy's work will use a comparative case study design, with mixed methods, to add to the EHVINA project by learning more about the unique context of each community. Increased knowledge of each Nation's strengths and health care needs will provide a foundation for the development of a community-tailored intervention to increase HPV vaccination rates. The comparison of the strengths and needs of different Nations will also result in knowledge that can be incorporated into service delivery for other programs.

This program of research will have long term and short term deliverables. Short term deliverables to benefit community health needs are critical and will be developed in collaboration with community. Long term deliverables are; increased cultural safety of vaccination services, increased HPV vaccination rates and decreased cervical cancer rates in First Nations communities in Alberta.