

# ETHICS NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH 2022-23

## Year-end summary and highlights

Our mandate is to build competence and confidence in addressing ethics issues through ethics education, support for clinical and organizational ethics issues, and feedback on policies.

Our tagline is *When in doubt, ask* – the big questions asked this past year involve themes related to:

- Integrity
- Moral distress
- Maintaining relationships
- System constraints



01

## 51 CLINICAL ETHICS CONSULTATIONS

Providing support for health care teams, patients, and families

### Common themes:

- Disagreement about end-of-life care or goals of care
- Substitute decision-making
- Harm reduction
- Living at risk
- Managing challenging behaviours



*“Thanks so much for capturing the ethical challenges of a very complex situation extremely well. Your support for our team enables us to make difficult choices.”*

02

## CONTRIBUTING TO ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESSES AND DECISION-MAKING



### Including:

- Ongoing support for the Clinical Networks
- Developing ethical frameworks for resource allocation
- *Data and Values-Driven Decision-Making Workshop* for senior leaders

*“Time well spent! The knowledge and wisdom shared in addressing resource allocation issues is valued.”*

03

## NEW RELATIONSHIPS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

We developed a collaboration with Patient Relations and co-delivered four sessions for frontline staff and leaders. We also provided over 25 education sessions in the past year on topics such as:

- Informed choice and capacity
- Substitute decision-making
- Moral wellness



In collaboration with the Nova Scotia Health Ethics Network, several new episodes of the *It's Complicated* podcast and Fireside Chat videos were released.

[Listen here!](#)

*“Thanks for providing education for our team! The session sparked rich, meaningful conversation and many team members have already mentioned to me that it was the highlight of the day.”*

04

## RELEASE OF NEW RESOURCE



[Read it here.](#)

### Making Health Care Decisions for Someone Else: Acting as a Substitute Decision-Maker

- Published in Feb. 2023
- Being translated into French, Arabic and Mandarin
- Audio version in development
- Companion pamphlet for health care providers to be completed later this year

*“Much needed, excellent resource! Will contribute to discussions with substitute decision-makers.”*

[Check out our posters here!](#)

Our new toll free number:  
**1-833-392-1413**

