



## FACT SHEET

**What is ACTION for Health?** It is one of few research projects in Canada to study health information technology from a social perspective, examining its impact on users and their environment.

**Project start and end dates:** October, 2003 – September, 2007

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Ellen Balka

- Professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University.
- Research Scientist at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute.

**Research Funding:** \$3 million over four years from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) under their Initiative for the New Economy (INE).

**Research Focus:** The role of technology in the health sector as it relates to three themes:

- 1) Issues arising as members of the public increasingly turn towards information technology as a means of accessing health information.
- 2) The impact of information technology on those working in the health sector.
- 3) The legal and ethical issues associated with health information technology.

**Research Goals:**

- To address the design, implementation and use of health information technology in real-world settings, as well as policies governing these areas.
- To help Canadians realize the benefits of health information technology and minimize the economic and social risks associated with widespread technological change.
- To determine if health information technology meets Canadians' expectations of their healthcare system: compassion, universality, efficiency.

**Research Context:**

- Information and communication technologies are regularly viewed as a more effective way to deliver health care services.
- Increasing resources are spent on health information technology.
- Few studies, to date, have addressed the impacts of health information technology on users and their environments.

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