

## **BC Ethics Harmonization replacing the Joint UVic/VIHA research ethics review process**

*February 9, 2015*

### **Effective Immediately**

As many of you are aware, the BC Ethics Harmonization Initiative has rolled out the trial model for harmonized ethical review of minimal risk research applications. We and our partners at Island Health have decided to adopt this model rather than continue with a separate Joint Sub-Committee review process.

What does this mean for you? Not much will change for the researcher. There will be one application form to complete, and you will receive one letter with the provisos from both institutions. You will also receive one Certificate of Ethical Approval. You will still be required to meet the requirements of operational/institutional approval for each organization.

As of **February 9, 2015**, our website will no longer contain copies of Joint UVic/Island Health research ethics application forms. If you have copies of our amendment, annual renewal or closure form saved to your desktop, please replace them with the Island Health versions that can be found on our website at [http://www.viha.ca/rnd/research\\_ethics/forms\\_page.htm](http://www.viha.ca/rnd/research_ethics/forms_page.htm)

If you are currently working on completing a submission and are already using a Joint UVic/Island Health application form, **please note that we will have a grace period of up to March 9, 2015**. Following March 9, we will ask that you please ensure all submissions are made using Island Health forms.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:**

**University of Victoria: Human Research Ethics Office, [ethics@uvic.ca](mailto:ethics@uvic.ca) or 250.472-4545**

**Island Health: Terri Fleming, [Terri.Fleming@viha.ca](mailto:Terri.Fleming@viha.ca) or 250.519.7700 ext. 13971.**

**We will be happy to talk you through the process of harmonized review or answer any questions you may have about Island Health research ethics application forms.**