StFX researchers, students and local health professionals have continued to advance groundbreaking research on early childhood development. A group of researchers who studied babies’ first contact with mothers have been working to determine if those same babies, at the ages of six to eight years old, received long-term social cognitive and communication benefits. Dr. Ann Bigelow, a StFX Psychology professor, along with Human Nutrition professor Dr. Doris Gillis, Psychology professor Dr. Kim MacLean, and Michelle Ward, the executive director of Kids First, have been carrying out this project with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The initial skin-to-skin research work between mothers and their infants conducted by StFX professors, students, and community health professionals, was a first-of-its-kind study in Canada.