



DR. DORIS GILLIS

BLAZING A PATH FOR NUTRITIONAL HEALTH LITERACY IN THE ACADEMY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

In 2015, the Nova Scotia Dietetic Association awarded StFX Human Nutrition professor and departmental chair **Dr. Doris Gillis** an honorary life membership for her outstanding career achievements. As a nutrition and dietetics health literacy expert, Dr. Gillis has contributed to numerous health policy initiatives and to the development of resources supporting evidence-based practice, through such organizations as Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and Dietitians of Canada. Her work in such areas as health literacy, food security and breastfeeding has played a significant role in heightening awareness of, and interest in, nutrition, addressing health disparities, and effecting positive change in practice and policy. Through her teaching, publications, presentations, professional and community service, graduate student advising, and highly interdisciplinary and collaborative participatory research (funded by CIHR, NSHRF, SSHRC and other leading agencies), she has inspired numerous students to pursue careers in this growing health field. Dr. Gillis served as a member of the Canadian Expert Panel on Health Literacy (2006-2008), and was a lead grant writer for the successful proposal that led to the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health being established at StFX in 2006.