



# THE MORAL WORK OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING

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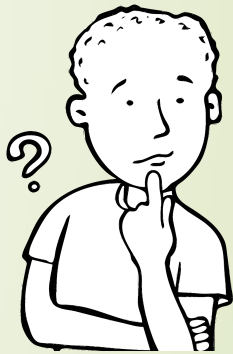
**The goal of community health nursing is to promote and protect community health.**

**Public health nurses focus on promoting, protecting and preserving health of populations.**

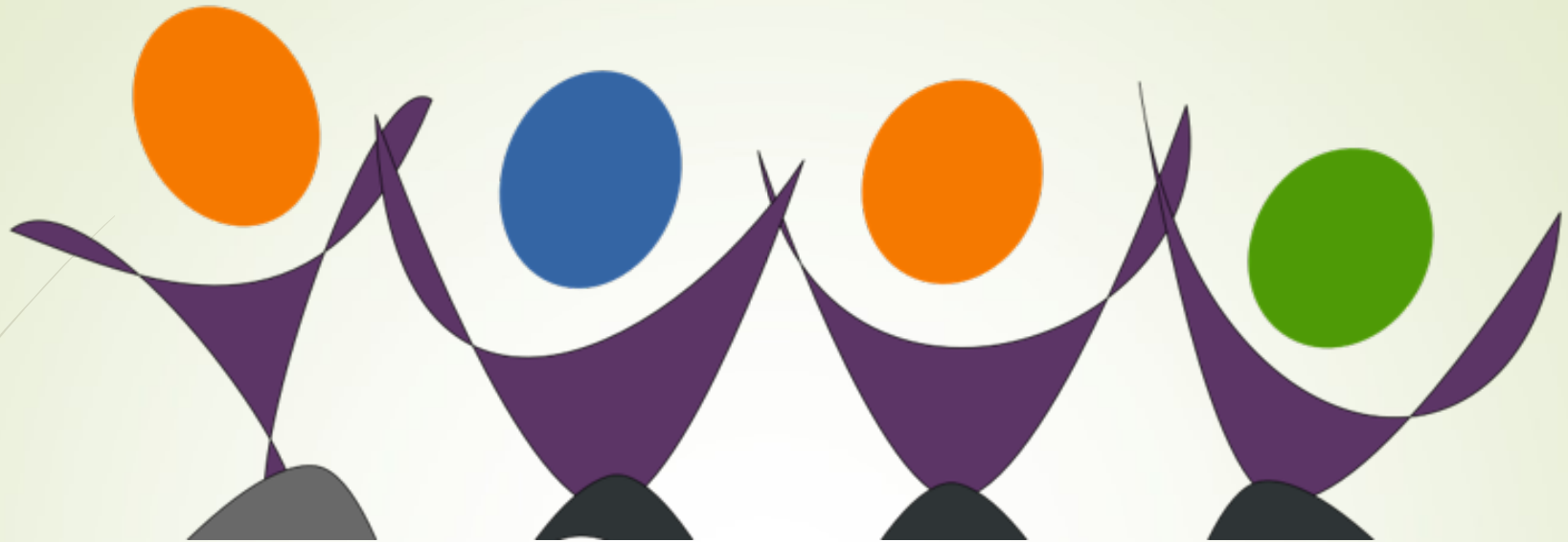
**Home health nurses concentrate on prevention, health restoration, maintenance or palliation for clients, their designated caregivers and their families.**

# The Moral Work of Community Health Nursing requires:

- mutual trust and respect in relationships with clients, families and communities
- reflection on practice
- dialogue with colleagues
- discernment of moral problems
- courage to take necessary action



Emaze.com



[Counselcarecanadacbt.com](http://Counselcarecanadacbt.com)

**Building on professional and communal relationships, community health nurses apply relational ethics in their work.**

**A primary Theme in  
public health ethics  
is balancing individual rights  
with the common good.**



**Quarantine  
area**

Keywordsuggests.com

For example, Quarantine may limit a person's right to freedom of movement while it prevents the spread of the communicable disease.

What do you do when a parent refuses consent for a child's immunization?

Does the parent realize that other children may be put at risk?

**This is Ben.  
He is immunocompromised  
and cannot be vaccinated.  
But thanks to community  
immunity, he is protected from major**



**By vaccinating, you are**

Refutationstoantivaccinememes.org



# **PANDEMIC ETHICS**

**Infectious diseases raise critical equity issues because the burden of illness is born inordinately by the poor and disadvantaged groups.**

**Marjorie McDonald (2013)**

# CARING ETHIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ameliorating  
social injustices  
that erode  
human dignity.

Falk-Rafael and Betker, 2012



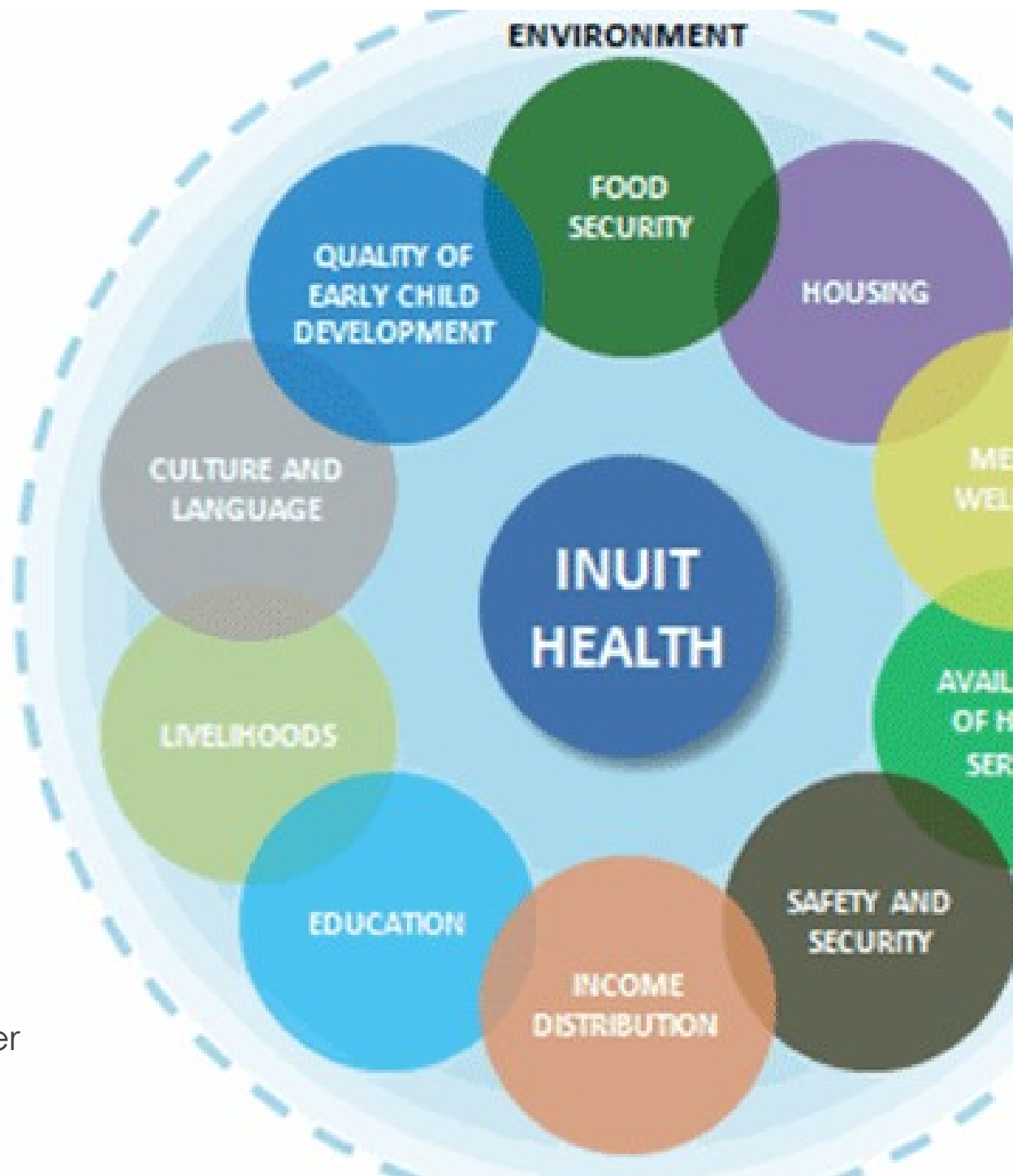
"It's a great philosophical concept, Oog, but is the world really ready for 'human dignity'?"



# Social Determinants of health draw attention to inequities in health care

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's Model

[https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ITK\\_Social\\_Determinants\\_Report.pdf](https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ITK_Social_Determinants_Report.pdf)






# PRIMARY CARE IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

Complex working relationships present challenges to client confidentiality and nurse privacy.





The **informed advocacy framework** has been applied in remote communities where nurses are often the only health care providers. Nurses' knowledge of the community and commitment to social justice inform their practice.

(Mackinnon and Moffitt, 2014)

Where else might this apply?

# HOME HEALTH



diem.org

The Canada Health Act applies only to insured hospital and medical services. Since home health is not protected under the Act, some people may not have access to care and family caregivers often carry the burden of care.


“This situation compromises the ability of nurses to enact one of nurses’ most fundamental values—the requirement to promote the health and well-being of persons.”

Elizabeth Peter



Guest

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**Being both the guest and the professional in the home presents challenges.**

When a patient/client does not admit you to their home, which alternative would be morally wrong? Intruding? or Leaving?

Magnusson & Lutzen (1999)



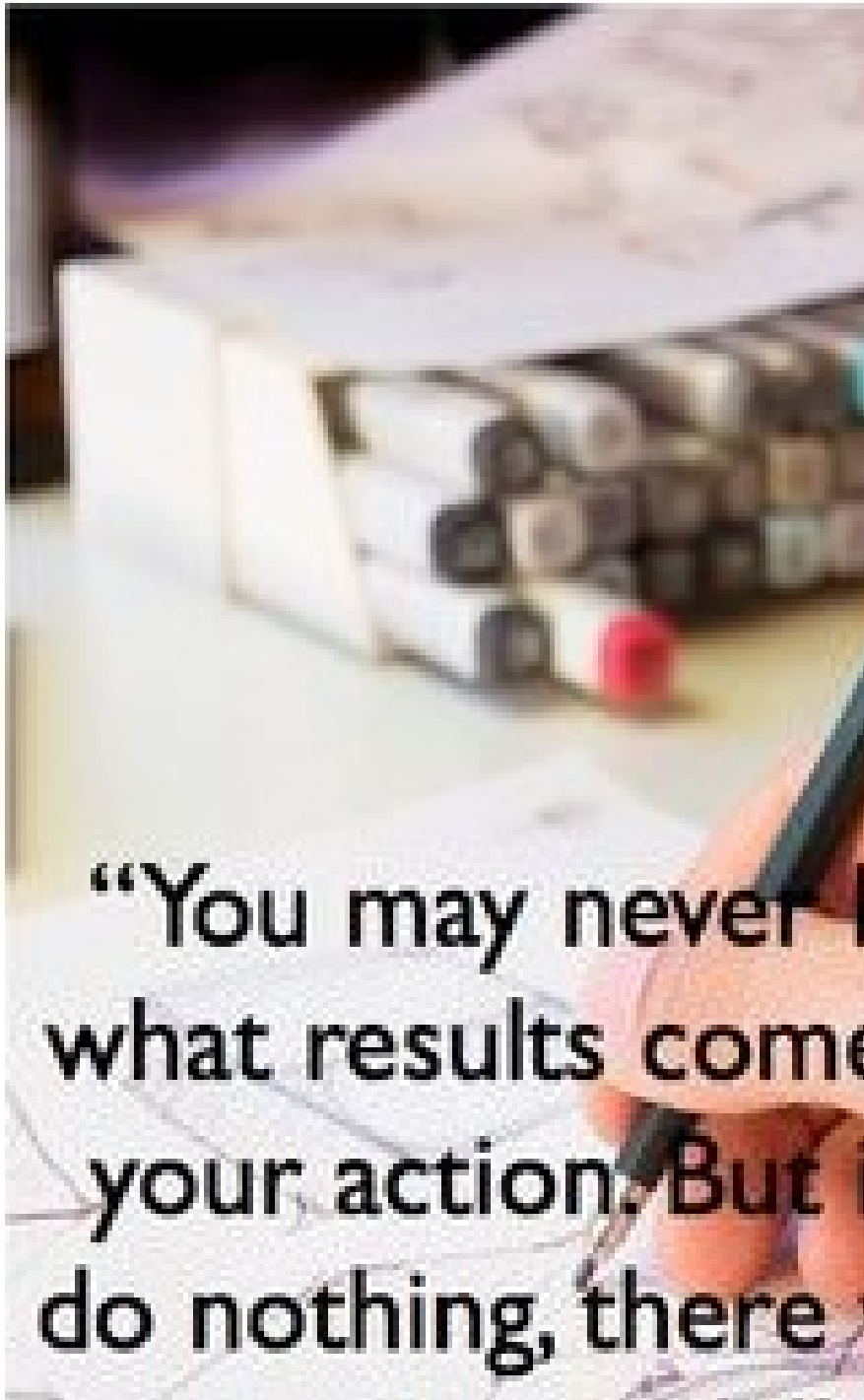
# THE MORAL ESSENCE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING

## 1. SAFEGUARDING CLIENTS' HEALTH, HOME AND FAMILY



## 2. ADVOCATING

on behalf of  
Individuals,  
families and  
communities  
(often regarding  
access to  
appropriate  
services).

A hand holding a pen is positioned over a document. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a control panel or a piece of equipment with various buttons and a red indicator light.

**“You may never know  
what results come from  
your action. But if you  
do nothing, there will be  
no results.”**





### **3. UPHOLDING**

Teaching,  
supporting and  
encouraging  
clients and  
families in healthy  
living and  
management of  
health problems



# THE ETHIC OF SELF-CARE

When reflecting on and dialoguing about their practice, nurses also **advocate** for themselves, **uphold** each other, and **safeguard** their personal health and professional practice.

IT'S A GOOD DAY TO  
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF  
(SO IS EVERY OTHER DAY).

