

FEATURED RESEARCHER

Dr. Nathan Hall is an Associate Professor at the University of Winnipeg, where he is cross-appointed between the Faculty of Education and the Gupta Faculty of Kinesiology and Applied Health. He is extremely dedicated to developing quality physical and health education teachers and presently teaches courses related to Physical and Health Education Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Teaching Games for Understanding; Pedagogical Theories and Models for Physical Activity and Sport; and Outdoor Education. He has been a highly engaged member of the Physical and Health Education Canada Research Council (PHECRC) since 2006. During that time he has co-chaired the PHECRC Forum on three separate occasions, co-lead the creation of the PHECRC



Emerging Scholar Award for graduate students. He is presently serving as the Past Chair for the PHE Canada Research Council.

Dr. Hall's research interests are many, but in recent years, he has developed a keen interest in physical literacy. From 2015 – 2018 he was a principal site investigator for the Canadian Assessment of Physical Literacy project funded by RBC and ParticipACTION that assessed the physical literacy levels of over 10,000 children from across Canada. Presently, he is collaborating with the City of Winnipeg, Fit Kids Healthy Kids, and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority on a SSHRC funded Partnership Engage Grant that examines the influence of a physical literacy focused professional development program for early childhood educators.

Dr. Hall is also passionate about the value of getting children and youth outside and exposing them to a variety of activities. Consequently, another research focus of his is the role of Alternative Environment Activities (AEAs) in physical education programs. His work in this area took him to Ireland in 2018 as a recipient of the Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF) James M. Flaherty research scholarship, and also contributed to him being recognized with the Young Scholar Award from AIESEP in 2016. Dr. Hall also continues to conduct research related to the use of mental imagery, which stemmed from his graduate work. He is presently accepting potential masters level graduate students who are interested in his areas of research.

Why is it important to be connected to the PHE Canada Research Council?

Having come from a non-education focused research background (completed my Masters in Sport Psychology, not education), when I first attended a PHE Canada conference in Moncton (2007) I basically knew nobody in the organization. My PhD co-supervisors (Dr. Nancy Melnychuk & Dr. Graham Fishburne) assured me that PHE Canada was essential for me to engage with, and more specifically the PHECRC. I presented my proposed doctoral work during a session at the PHECRC Forum to a room of complete strangers and felt somewhat out

of place. However, the individuals in the room could not have been more welcoming. Not only did they seem truly interested in my research ideas, but everyone (new and experienced members alike) instantly seemed to want to support me in achieving my research ambitions. That support has never wavered since and to me that is why I so strongly advocate for the PHECRC. Being connected to this organization has contributed, in some way, to probably 90% or more of all my research related successes.

Nathan Hall's most recent publications:

- Hall, N. & Lewis, B. (2018). Using games to teach physical education. In J. Barrett and C. Sciani (Eds.), Quality Health and Physical Education: Pedagogical Practices and Considerations for Canadian Elementary School Teachers. Windsor, ON: Human Kinetics.
- Law, B., Bruner, B., Scharoun, S.M., Anderson, K., Gregg, M., Hall, N., Lane, K., MacDonald, D., Saunders, T.J., Sheehan, D., Stone, M.R., Woodruff, S.J., Belanger, .K, Barnes, J.D., Longmuir, P.E., & Tremblay, M.S. (2018).
 Associations between teacher training and measures of physical literacy among Canadian 8 to 12 year old students. BMC Public Health, 18(2), 1039.
- Tremblay, M.S., Longmuir, P.E., Barnes, J.D., Belanger, K., Anderson, K.D., Bruner, B., Copeland, J.L., Gregg, M.J., **Hall, N.**, Kolen, A.M., Lane, K.N., Law, B., MacDonald, D.J., Martin, L.J., Saunders, T.L., Sheehan, D., Stone, M.R., Woodruff, S.J. (2018). Physical literacy levels of Canadian children aged 8-12 years: Descriptive and normative results from the RBC Learn to Play CAPL Project. *BMC Public Health*, *18*(2), 1036.
- **Hall, N.**, Hickson, C., Melnychuk, N., & Tobin, D. (in-press). A different way of "looking" at assessment: PE teachers' utilization of mental imagery. *Educational Research & Evaluation*.