



Research Exchange Groups

Climate Change and Health Research and Knowledge Exchange

Follow Up Notes

Meeting #1, September 20, 2024

Attendance

1. Dr. Stephanie Atkinson, Co-Convener, Orthopedic Surgeon and Chair, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (NL Chapter)
2. Yasamin Atabaki, Co-Convener, Master of Community Health, Memorial University
3. Michael Barret, Environmental Task Force, Quality of Care NL, Choosing Wisely NL
4. Laura Bass, Climate Change Coordinator for Education and Outreach, Johnson Geocentre
5. D'vorah Byer, Emergency Medicine Triage Nurse, Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto), Master of Public Health Student, Memorial University
6. Julia Clark, Canadian Counseling and Psychotherapy Association and therapist in private practice
7. Alison Dyer, Co-Chair, Briar Watch, Artist, Permaculture and Organic Farmer, explorer
8. Edmundo Fausto, Manager of Sustainability, City of St. John's
9. Cassandra Hanrahan, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Dalhousie University
10. Douglas Howse, Manager of Environmental Public Health with the Provincial Department of Health Community Services
11. Joanna King, Planning Coordinator, NL Health Services, Co-Chair, NLHS Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee
12. Loriann Lyall, Research Coordinator for the Department of Health and Social Development at Nunatsiavut Government
13. Eilean McKenzie Matwy, National Research Program manager with the Canadian Lung Association
14. Krista Mahoney, Provincial Coordinator, Choosing Wisely Canada

15. Kathleen Mather, Quality of Care NL, PhD candidate in Public Health, University of Toronto
16. Chelsey McPhee, Environmental Task Force, Quality of Care NL, Choosing Wisely NL
17. Maggie Power, Manager of Health Emergency Management with the Department of Health and Community Services
18. Pablo Navarro, Co-Convener, Senior Research Officer, NL Centre for Applied Health Research
19. Elizabeth Yeoman, Professor in the Faculty of Education at Memorial University

Funding from Canadian Lung Association

The Canadian Lung Association Funding has made a donation of \$3,000 to support activities in Newfoundland and Labrador focused on climate change and health, and that promote research ideas that are both researcher-led and community-involved.

The donation aims to help grow research teams and research ideas that are relevant to the people involved. The donation does not have restrictions on how the money is used, as it is not up to the Canadian Lung Association to dictate how Newfoundland and Labrador residents create knowledge and share knowledge.

The Canadian Lung Association respects the time and knowledge of participants from all communities, and the funds may be used to promote inclusion. The organization will continue to support the group by sharing research projects and programs.

Discussion Themes

The RKE discussed topics that we would like to address in our group and several themes emerged (see below). We will keep track of these topics to inform future meetings and activities.

- Energy poverty in a local context and its impacts on vulnerable populations
- Health system and government vulnerabilities and adaptation to climate change
- Impact of engagement with nature on climate change awareness and mobilization
- Impact of engagement with nature on planetary and human population health
- Mental health impacts of climate change
- Public policy to protect natural areas to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and its impact on human population health and wellbeing
- Sustainable transportation plans, examples, and strategies in NL and Canada.
- Quantifying greenhouse gas emissions in a range of contexts, including healthy system, social sectors, and at the community level

Links of Interest

The following are links to organizations, programs, and other resources that were mentioned during our meeting.

- [Attutauniujuk Nunami/Lament for the Land](#) (documentary about climate change and ecological grief in Labrador)
- [Britt Wray](#), Canadian author of Generation Dread about climate anxiety
- [Canadian Assoc of Physicians for the Environment](#) (CAPE)

- [Newfoundland and Labrador Committee](#)
- [Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment](#)
 - [Atlantic Region](#)
- [Choosing Wisely Canada Climate Action](#)
- [Canadian Lung Association](#)
 - [Electrification of school buses](#)
 - Gupta S, Couillard S, Digby G, Tse SM, Green S, Penz E. **Climate Change and Inhaler Selection in Patients With Respiratory Disease**. Chest. 2024 Mar;165(3):503-6. [LINK](#)
 - [Studentship and Fellowship Awards](#)
- [Greener NHS](#), the NHS climate change initiative
- [PaRX: A Prescription for Nature](#)
 - [PaRx launches in Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Research and Knowledge Exchange groups at NLCAHR](#)
- Research publications:
 - Beery T, Stahl Olafsson A, et al. **Disconnection from nature: Expanding our understanding of human–nature relations**. People and Nature. 2023 Apr;5(2):470-88. [LINK](#)
 - Gupta S, et al. **Climate Change and Inhaler Selection in Patients With Respiratory Disease**. Chest. 2024 Mar;165(3):503-6. [LINK](#)
- [Trees for Life Canada](#)
- [Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council \(WERAC\)](#)

Potential RKE Activities

NLCAHR Research and Knowledge Exchange groups engage in a wide range of activities (see below) and it is up to each RKE to decide on what they would like to do.

- Applying for grants, e.g., to host speakers or meetings open to the public
- Brokering research partnerships
- Creating working groups who want to focus on a specific topic
- Developing resources of interest to the RKE, e.g., compendium of available resources for climate change and health in the province or recommended books on climate change and health
- Networking
- Presentations by community / stakeholder groups about their activities and interests
- Presentations by invited speakers
- Presentations by Memorial graduate students or faculty on their research
- Presentations by NL decision makers on policies, programs, practices
- Roundtable discussions on selected topics
- Supporting practicum projects

Meetings

We proposed meeting on a monthly basis for now, with the option for special meetings like public presentations, as well as additional working group meetings. The tentative schedule is:

- Friday, October 18th
- Friday, November 15th and
- Friday, December 13th

Please let us know if Friday afternoons are problematic for your participation.