

The Canadian Environmental Health Atlas

Call for Contributions

The SSHRC-funded Canadian Environmental Health Atlas is aimed at producing a single coherent account of environmental health and public health practice in Canada and for raising environmental health awareness nationally. With this note we are asking if you can identify interesting work - whether your own or otherwise - that you can nominate to be part of this first-time collection.

We are seeking topics and case studies to fit into seven content themes: Air Quality, Water Quality, Climate, Built Environment, Environmental Contaminates, Rural and Remote Health Issues, and Social & Political Environments. The Atlas will present research at various scales (national, regional, and local) and be linked to specific health outcomes and public health practices important to Canadians.

The first chapter of the Atlas will explore the basics of environmental health and health mapping. Subsequent chapters will develop the themes noted above and contain maps of health relationships and specific case studies. Key environmental health concepts and terms will be explained throughout the Atlas.

Included in this call for contributions is a list of potential topics to be explored. We are seeking ideas about ongoing and past academic and public health projects as well as suggestions for other topics not yet listed. What do you think is important to include in Canada's environmental health atlas? We are especially interested in projects that have a geographical and/or visual component.

The target audience for the final version of the project is anyone working at, or interested in, the intersection of environment and human health including the role of socioeconomic status. This includes municipal, provincial, and federal planners, decision-makers, policy-makers, health care providers, and public health departments.

Project authors include Drs. Kate Bassil (SFU), Mike Buzzelli (UWO), Bruce Lanphear (SFU) and Paul Peters (Statistics Canada). We expect to complete this project by December 2010. Please send your suggestions or contact the Project Coordinator, Hannah Moffatt, for more information.

Thank you!

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- Doug Haines, Health Canada
- Ray Copps, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

Canadian Environmental Health Atlas: Potential Topics of Interest

Air Quality

Introduction to Air Quality & Health
Rates of mortality associated with poor outdoor air quality
Asbestos: A Canadian history
Social Justice in Hamilton, ON
Industrial contamination in Trail, BC
Traffic, Air quality & Health

Water Quality

Introduction to Water Quality
National Boil-Water Advisories
Waterborne Enteric Illness Outbreaks in Canada
Outbreak Case Studies: Walkerton, ON & Northern Battleford, SK
Case Study: Kesheshewan, ON
Arsenic and/or Lead in Drinking Water
Comparison of bottle water & tap water

Built Environment

Introduction to the Built Environment Physical Activity & Obesity
Food Deserts
Injury
Video lottery terminals (VLTs)
Noise Pollution
Green space
Expanding urban environments (sprawl)

Environmental Contaminants

Introduction to Environmental Contaminants
Health outcomes near Industrial Parks
Great Lakes Contamination
Sydney, NS Tar Ponds
Alberta oil sands
Case Study: Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Adverse Birth Outcomes and Environmental Contaminants
Federal Government - Contaminated Areas of Canada

Climate

Introduction to Climate & Health
Lyme disease
West Nile Virus
Mountain Pine Beetle
Extreme Events
Heat Waves
Wildfires and Respiratory Ailments
Sea Level Rise & Flooding
Allergies in a Changing Climate

Rural & Northern Issues

Introduction to Rural & Remote
First Nations & Inuit Health
Remote Inuit Health
Food Security
Newfoundland & Labrador's Cod Moratorium
Source waters of rural & northern communities
Health care access, dental care access, & iatrogenesis

Social & Political Environments

Introduction to S & P Environments
Mental Health
SARS
Food Safety / Food-borne disease Outbreaks
Toronto's restaurant Food Safe program
Bans on Cosmetic Pesticide Use
Housing & Homelessness
Seat belt use in Canada

