

**163rd HYBRID 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE OF THE
HEALTH OFFICERS COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ponderosa Commons Ballroom, UBC Vancouver
May 20th, 21st, & 22nd (half day), 2026**



Accreditation statement

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Overall Program Learning Objectives:

As a result of attending this conference, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify and describe priority public health issues currently affecting British Columbia (BC);
2. Implement methods, tools, and programs to protect and improve the health of the BC population; and
3. Participate in the development of recommendations to governments, health authorities, non – government agencies, and others regarding priority public health issues affecting BC.

Speakers and chairpersons are reminded that:

1. To meet the Royal College Education requirements, **at least 25% of each session should be participatory discussion** with the audience.
2. Any financial affiliations regarding the presentation topics must be disclosed.
3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms for planning committee members and for presenters will be available to conference participants during the conference.
4. Only generic names of drugs and devices should be used in presentations.

For Technical Assistance with Zoom please contact:

1. **Christina Lavoie**, Public Health Association of BC, hoc.secretariat@phabc.org

This event has received no commercial sponsorship and is supported by an unrestricted grant of \$1500 from the BC Ministry of Health. Fraser Health Authority, Interior Health Authority, Northern Health Authority, Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, and Vancouver Island Health Authority support the operation of Health Officers Council, including the planning and hosting of this conference.



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SCIENTIFIC PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

In accordance with the document *UBC CPD Ethical Standards for Accreditation 2024*, Health Officers Council of British Columbia collects from each Scientific Planning Committee member and each content contributor (e.g., speakers, facilitators, authors) a *Declaration of Conflict of Interest* form, reviews them for any real or perceived conflict of interest, and establishes, when a conflict arises, how to manage such conflict. When a conflict arises for a Scientific Planning Committee member, the Council will mention this explicitly to the conference learners. Content contributors will include any such mention at the beginning of their presentation.

Name	Affiliations, financial or otherwise that may have a direct or indirect connection to the content of the program.
Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, Chair	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority National Institutes of Health (USA), Canadian Institute of Health Research: grant recipient
Dr. Ingrid Tyler, Chief Medical Health Officer, Past Chair	Fraser Health Authority
Dr. Silvina Mema, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, Chair Elect	Interior Health Authority
Dr. Althea Hayden, Medical Health Officer, Secretary	Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. David McVea, Public Health Physician, Treasurer	BC Centre for Disease Control Genome BC: Wastewater surveillance for pathogens: Grant recipient
Dr. Martin Lavoie, Deputy Provincial Health Officer	Office of the Provincial Health Officer & Interior Health Authority National Advisory Committee on Immunization – Non-voting liaison member
Dr. Geoff McKee, Physician Epidemiologist	BC Centre for Disease Control CIHR, MSFHR: Co-investigator grant recipient
Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority Doctors of BC: Editorial Board
Dr. Jennifer Grant, Medical Microbiologist	Provincial Health Services Authority & Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. Alexis Crabtree, Public Health Physician	Fraser Health
Dr. Trevor Corneil, PHPM Residency Director	Northern Health, UBC PHPM Residency Training Program



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Dr. Jia Hu, Public Health Physician	BC Centre for Disease Control Praxus Health: Co-founder and previous CEO
Dr. Jennifer Vines, Public Health Physician	BC Centre for Disease Control, Provincial Health Services Authority
Dr. Siu-Kae Yeong, Medical Health Officer	Newfoundland & Labrador Health Services
Dr. Diana Bark, Regional Medical Health Officer	Northern Health
Dr. Raina Fumerton, Northwest Medical Health Officer	Northern Health
Dr. Malcolm Steinberg, Associate Professor	Simon Fraser University, Canadian Public Health Association
Dr. Kevin Donak, Medical Resident.	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, University of British Columbia
Dr. Emily Newhouse, Medical Health Officer	Fraser Health

Statement of Respectful Conduct

In attending an HOC event, members and participants agree to honour its Code of Conduct. All participants in HOC activities are entitled to enjoy an environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, physical appearance, manner of dress, body size, race, ethnicity, spiritual beliefs, professional position, or level of professional development.

This HOC conference is being held on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People. Participants may also be joining virtually from the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of many First Nations in BC and across the country.



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AGENDA

Day 1 – Wednesday May 20th, 2026		Facilitator(s)
	Zoom:	
8:00-8:30	Coffee & Pastries	
8:30-9:00	Opening Statement & Territorial Acknowledgement	Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
9:00-10:30 1.5 hours	<p>Population Health Committee Session: Building Trust and Countering Health Misinformation: BC's Path Forward</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Tara Kirk Sell, Senior Scholar, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Dr. Martin Lavoie, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Malcolm Steinberg, Associate Professor & Director of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the current state of misinformation/disinformation in BC and identify existing strategies to address these challenges. 2. Describe the BRAID project, including its goals, methods (e.g., community conversation circles), and evaluate its impact and scalability for other health topics. 3. Explain the TRUST in Action framework and assess its potential application within BC's public health context. 4. Prioritize next steps and recommend initiatives for collective action to strengthen trust and counter health rumors. 	Dr. Silvina Mema
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:30 1.5 hours	<p>Psychoactive Substances Committee Session: Online Gambling: Associated Harms, Policy Challenges, and Public Health Implications</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Matthew Young, Senior Research Associate, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze how recent gambling policy and advertising changes in Canada affect public health risk, especially youth and young adults. 2. Interpret data on online gambling harms among young adults to identify key patterns of elevated risk. 3. Evaluate potential policy responses and propose public health strategies to reduce gambling-related harms. 	Dr. Alexis Crabtree/ Dr. Diana Bark



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12:30-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-3:00 1.5 hours	<p>Planetary Health Committee Session: The Health Co-Benefits of a Sustainable Agri-Food System</p> <p>Speaker(s): Professor Claire Kremen, UBC's President's Excellence Chair in Biodiversity, member of EAT Lancet Commission Dr. Kent Mullinix, Director of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, Kwantlen Polytechnic University TBC - Katherine Younker, Provincial Dietician & Director Nutrition and Physical Activity, Prevention and Health Promotion</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the relationship and intersections between Planetary Health and Public Health, with a focus on agri-food systems and health more specifically, supported by specific examples. 2. Assess the potential for engagement with specific Planetary Health topics in their practice, with attention to the selection and application of public health activities related to local agri-food systems 3. Describe and pursue opportunities for public health intervention at the direct planning and response level, through action on the agri-food system as a key determinant both of population and planetary health, 	Dr. Raina Fumerton/ Dr. Michael Schwandt
3:00-3:30	Break	
3:30-5:00 1.5 hours	<p>Academic Session: Introduction to Case Based Learning</p> <p>Speaker(s): Dr. Lindsay Bowthorpe, Medical Director, Population and Public Health, Fraser Health</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the purpose and key components of the Case-Based Learning section of UBC's Public Health & Preventive Medicine Residency Program's Academic Half Day. 2. Identify the key steps involved in developing a Case-Based Learning case. 3. Draft a Case-Based Learning case using the case template for authors. 	Dr. Trevor Corneil
5:00	ADJOURN FOR THE DAY EVALUATION SURVEY DAY 1	
6:00-9:00pm	Evening Retirement Dinner – Ponderosa Ballroom	



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Day 2 – Thursday May 21st, 2026		Facilitator(s)
	Zoom:	
8:00-8:30	Coffee & Pastries	
8:30-10:00 1.5 hours	<p>Emerging Issues Session: Emerging Issues in Public Health in BC</p> <p>Speaker(s): TBC</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe recently emerging public health issues that have had an impact on public health in BC. 2. Discuss the implications of these issues to public health and preventive medicine practice. 3. Modify practices and/or make recommendations about the implications for public health practice and the populations served by public health and preventive medicine physicians. 	Dr. Ingrid Tyler
10:00-10:30	Break	
10:30-12:00 1.5 hours	<p>MOH/ADM Session: Alcohol & Cannabis Regulation in BC</p> <p>Speaker(s): Dr. Maryna Korchagina, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health, BC Ministry of Health David Hume, Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, Public Safety and Solicitor General</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a better understanding of how the Government of BC works to promote safe alcohol and cannabis establishments and safe communities 2. Review and evaluate the Government of BC's current alcohol and cannabis policy, laws and tools 3. Discuss current challenges with regards to alcohol and cannabis regulation and their impacts on population health in BC. 	Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
12:00-1:00	Lunch	



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Day 3 – Friday May 22nd, 2026 (half day)		Facilitator(s)
	Zoom:	
8:00-8:30	Coffee & Pastries	
8:30-10:00 1.5 hours	<p>BCCDC Session: Public Health Preparedness for Mass Gatherings: FIFA World Cup 2026 and Beyond</p> <p>Speaker(s): Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, Government of BC Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health Dr. Jennifer Vines, Medical Director, Public Health Response, BC Centre for Disease Control</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe enhanced surveillance and communication strategies in place for the FIFA World Cup 2026 event 2. Outline roles and responsibilities of key public health partners in mass gathering surveillance and response 3. Reinforce these learnings by walking through a small number of scenarios. 	Dr. Mark Lysyshyn/ Dr. Jennifer Vines
10:00-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:00 0.5 hour	Business Meeting (MEMBERS ONLY)	Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
11:00-12:00 1 hour	<p>Resolutions (MEMBERS ONLY)</p> <p>Learning Objectives Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss current public health issues affecting BC 2. Debate possible solutions to current public health issues affecting BC <p>Develop recommendations for how HOC should intervene to address current public health issues affecting BC.</p>	Dr. Silvina Mema
12:00	163rd Meeting of Health Officers Council of BC Conference Closes EVALUATION SURVEY DAY 3	