

164th HYBRID 2026 FALL CONFERENCE OF THE HEALTH OFFICERS COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Strategy Room 420 - Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser
University Downtown Campus
November 25th, 26th & 27th (half day), 2026



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:

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. 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
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	BC Centre for Disease Control
Dr. Jia Hu, Public Health Physician	BC Centre for Disease Control
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



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Dr. Kevin Donak, Medical Resident.	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, University of British Columbia
Dr. Rohit Vijh, Medical Health Officer	Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
Dr. Kristy Bobrow, Medical Health Officer	BC Centre for Disease Control

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 xwməθkwəy̓əm (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 November 25 th , 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	Population Health Committee Session: Wildfire Smoke and Health: Translating Emerging Evidence into Public Health Action Speakers: Dr. Sarah Henderson, Scientific Director, Environmental Health Services, BCCDC Dr. Silvina Mema, Medical Health Officer, Interior Health Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Describe emerging evidence on the long-term health impacts of wildfire smoke and its implications for public health practice. 2. Identify opportunities to strengthen wildfire smoke preparedness and response, drawing on frontline, operational, and Medical Health Officer perspectives. 3. Identify priority actions that the Health Officers Council could advance to support a more consistent, equitable, and evidence-informed approach to wildfire smoke across British Columbia.	Dr. Silvina Mema
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:30 1.5 hours	Psychoactive Substances Committee Session: Psilocybin & Public Health: From Evidence to Policy Speaker: Angela Allbee, Medical Cannabis & Psilocybin (MCAP) Section Manager, Oregon Health Authority(TBC) Dr. Kenneth Tupper, Independent Consultant, KTupper Consulting Dr. Valorie Masuda, Palliative Care Physician & General Practitioner, Oncology Island Health Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Summarize peer-reviewed evidence on psilocybin benefits and harms 2. Describe clinical experience regarding psilocybin use in palliative care settings 3. Compare Oregon's public health regulatory model with other potential regulatory approaches in light of global events and trends 4. Reflect on the implications of changing psilocybin norms and approaches for public health practice in BC	Dr. Alexis Crabtree/ Dr. Diana Bark



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12:30-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-3:00 1.5 hours	Indigenous Health Committee Session: Understanding the BC Treaty Process and Its Implications for Advancing Indigenous Health Speaker(s): George Abbott, Chief Commissioner, BC Treaty Commission Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Gain a foundational understanding of the BC treaty process and its place within the broader reconciliation journey in British Columbia. 2. Reflect on the connections between Indigenous self-determination, treaties, and population health outcomes. 3. Identify considerations and opportunities for Health Officers to serve as effective partners in advancing health and well-being with First Nations communities.	Dr. Geoff McKee
3:00-3:30	Break	
3:30-5:00 1.5 hours	Planetary Health Committee Session: Watershed Protection and the Coming Drought: Public Health Action in a Changing Climate Speaker(s): Brian Holmes, Badger Holmes Consulting TBC Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Describe the impacts of climate change, drought, and watershed degradation on ecosystem and public health in British Columbia. 2. Identify approaches to watershed protection and drought resilience that can reduce risks to public health, including risks faced by disproportionately affected populations. 3. Discuss opportunities for public health physicians to advance watershed protection through policy, partnerships, advocacy, and intersectoral collaboration.	Dr. Michael Schwandt
5:00	ADJOURN FOR THE DAY EVALUATION SURVEY	



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	Day 2 – Thursday November 26th, 2026	Facilitator(s)
	Zoom:	
8:00-8:30	Coffee & Pastries	
8:30-10:00 1.5 hours	Academic Session – Part 1: Research to Practice: Advancing Population Health Through Collaborative Scholarship Speaker(s): Dr. David Bangsberg, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU Dr. Chris Buse, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU Dr. Kiffer Card, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU Dr. Meghan Winters, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU Dr. Anne-Marie Nicol, Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU Dr. Lindsay Hedden, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Describe areas of research within the SFU Faculty of Health Sciences that have the potential to strengthen public health policy and practice in British Columbia. 2. Assess opportunities to apply evidence from population health research to current public health priorities, including health equity, healthy communities, environmental health, Indigenous health, and substance use. 3. Strengthen opportunities for collaboration between BC Health Officers and SFU researchers to support knowledge mobilization, applied research, trainee development, and innovation in public health practice.	Dr. Michael Steinberg
10:00-10:30	Break	
10:30-12:00 1.5 hours	Academic Session – Part 2: Training Physicians for Community-Based Primary Care and Health Leadership Speaker(s): Dr. David J. Price, Founding Dean, Stephens Family School of Medicine, SFU Dr. Maria Hubinette, Associate Dean, Partnerships, Stephens Family School of Medicine, Simon Fraser University Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Describe the vision, principles, and educational model of the SFU Stephens Family School of Medicine. 2. Assess opportunities to strengthen collaboration between primary care, public health, and community health systems	Dr. Michael Steinberg



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	through the school's innovative programs and practices (education; research etc.). 3. Discuss opportunities for BC Health Officers to partner with the SFU School of Medicine on medical education, clinical training, public health learning experiences, and the future development of training programs.	
12:00-1:00	Group Photo & Lunch	
1:00-1:45 0.75 hours	ADM Session: Update on the Strengthening Public Health Initiative Speaker(s): Dr. Maryna Korchagina, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health, BC Ministry of Health Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Discuss implementation of BC's Population and Public Health Framework, through the Strengthening Public Health Initiative. 2. Review development of & progress on SPHI priority indicators. 3. Interactive demonstration of how to access, interpret, and use the SPHI priority indicators dashboard.	Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
1:45-2:30 0.75 hours	OPHO Session: Provincial Health Officer Updates Speaker(s): Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Olu Oyeniran, Senior Resident, Office of the Provincial Health Officer Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Hear about and strategically discuss latest projects at the Office of the Provincial Health Officer 2. Contribute to a shared understanding of the 2026 season of animal exposures as it relates to the risk of rabies in humans 3. Contribute to the development of tactics, strategies and solutions to strengthen our capacity to respond effectively, in a timely way, and efficiently.	Dr. Martin Lavoie
2:30-3:00	Break	
3:00-4:00	Annual General Meeting (MEMBERS ONLY)	Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
4:00-5:00 1 hour	Resolutions (MEMBERS ONLY) Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Discuss current public health issues affecting BC	Dr. Silvina Mema



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	2. Debate possible solutions to current public health issues affecting BC 3. Develop recommendations for how HOC should intervene to address current public health issues affecting BC	
5:00	ADJOURN FOR THE DAY EVALUATION SURVEY	

	Day 3 – Friday November 27th, 2026 (half day)	Facilitator(s)
	Zoom:	
8:00-8:30	Coffee & Pastries	
8:30-10:00 1.5 hours	BCCDC Session: Rabies in BC Speaker(s): Dr. Mayank Singal , Public Health Physician, BCCDC Dr. Erin Fraser , Public Health Veterinarian, BCCDC Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 1. Discuss epidemiology of reported rabies exposures in BC 2. Review the updates to Rabies Post exposure guidelines 3. Apply updated RPEP guidelines to scenarios encountered in BC	Dr. Jennifer Vines
10:00-10:30	Break	
10:30-12:00 1.5 hours	Emerging Issues Session: Micromobility: Data and Policy Considerations Speaker(s): Dr. Brandon Yau , Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health. Dr. Navid Dehghani , Regional Pediatric Emergency Medicine Lead, Fraser Health Megan Oakey , Provincial Manager, Injury Prevention, BCCDC Learning Objectives Participants will be able to: 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
12:00	164th Meeting of Health Officers Council of BC Conference Closes EVALUATION SURVEY	