

LUNCH 'N' LEARN

The key role of health equity in addressing the climate crisis and other environmental risks

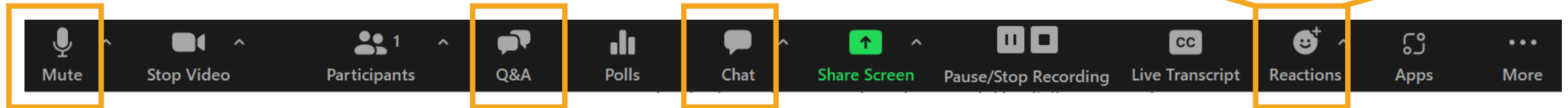
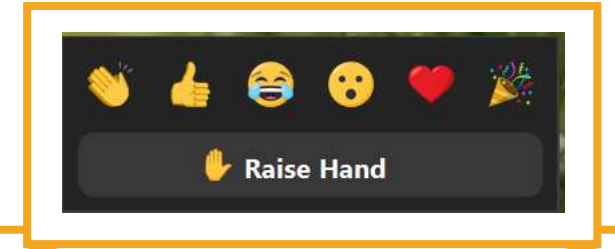
Mariya Bezgrebelna & Sean Kidd
Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

September 20, 2023



Alliance for Healthier Communities
Alliance pour des communautés en santé

Housekeeping



- Microphones are muted by default.
- You may enter questions through the Q&A panel at any time.
- Please use the Chat function for technical assistance.
- During the Q&A period, you may use the “raise hand” function (under “reactions”), and we’ll unmute you when we call on you.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories

We recognize that the work of the Alliance for Healthier Communities and our members takes place across what is now called Ontario, on traditional territories of Indigenous people who have lived here since time immemorial and have deep connections to these lands. We further acknowledge that Ontario is covered by 46 treaties, agreements and land purchases, as well as unceded territories. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, meet and work on this territory.

Ontario continues to be home to vibrant, diverse Indigenous communities who have distinct and specific histories, needs, and assets as well as constitutionally protected and treaty rights. We honour this diversity and respect the knowledge, leadership and governance frameworks within Indigenous communities. In recognition of this, we commit to building allyship relationships with First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples in order to enhance our knowledge and appreciation of the many histories and voices within Ontario. We also commit to sharing and upholding our responsibilities to all who now live on these lands, the land itself, and the resources that make our lives possible.

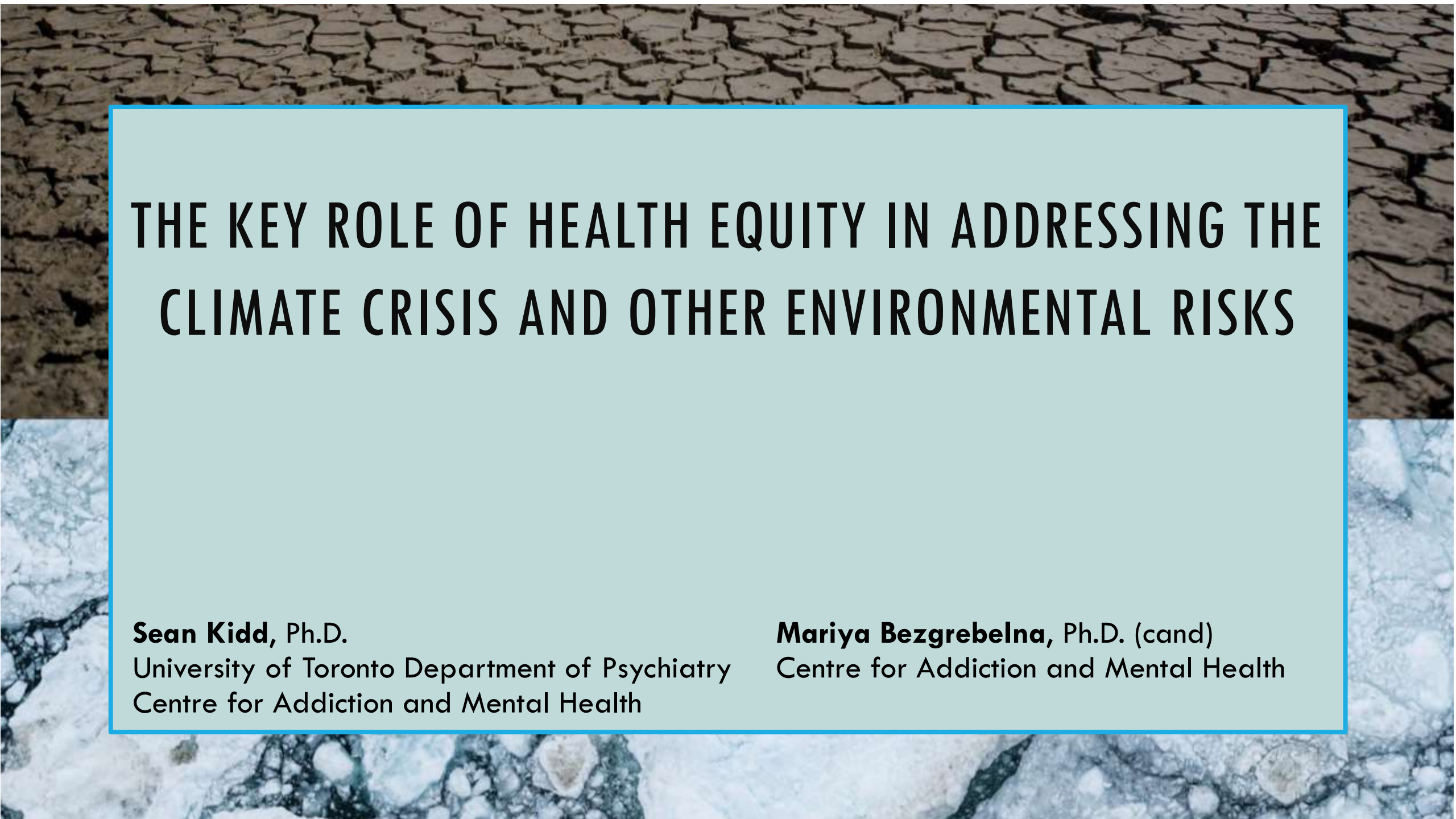
Guest Speakers

Dr. Sean A. Kidd

Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto; Division Chief of Psychology at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Mariya Bezgrebelna

Research analyst at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.



THE KEY ROLE OF HEALTH EQUITY IN ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

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FUNDING & DISCLOSURES

Tricouncil Living Within the Earth's Carrying Capacity KMb grant

McConnell Foundation grant

No disclosures



OBJECTIVES

1. Consider the unique health equity implications of climate change for vulnerable populations
2. Discuss the importance of collaborative responses
3. Highlight relevant case examples
4. Present on prevention and emergency responses for addressing the challenges, derived from available evidence and expert opinion

ON CLIMATE CHANGE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING — A BRIEF ORIENTATION

Heat exposure interacting with conditions such as respiratory and cardiac disease.

Impacts on ability to work and exercise.

Mortality, injury, cascading risk related to weather events such as storms and fires.

Smoke, pollutant, disease exposure.

Food, water, energy insecurity.

Displacement and violence.



[https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(22\)01540-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(22)01540-9/fulltext)

POPULATIONS AT RISK & HEALTH EQUITY

Children and Youth

Homeless and Precariously Housed Populations

Older Adults

Women

Indigenous Populations

Ethnic Minorities

People with Disabilities

EFFORTS TO DATE



Lack of routine inclusion in disaster response plans.



Lack of routine inclusion in climate adaptation and remediation plans.



Reactive responses – heating and cooling centres, outreach with water bottles, supplies, education.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

3 reviews (1 review of reviews; 2 scoping reviews)

Response framework

7 think tank events drawing on a global network

5 think tank events drawing on a network of Canadian experts

Further information and resources available at:

- <https://www.homelesshub.ca/climate-homelessness>
- <https://www.homelesshub.ca/canadian-poverty-health-equity-and-climate-change-initiative>

HOUSING AS A DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

Climate change as a driver of migration and homelessness

Exposure to extreme weather events

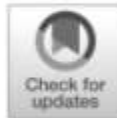
Homeless and precariously housed populations

Pre-existing physical and mental health conditions

J Urban Health (2021) 98:385–393
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-020-00483-1>

Global Climate Implications for Homelessness: A Scoping Review

Sean A. Kidd  • Susan Greco • Kwame McKenzie






 International Journal of
Environmental Research
and Public Health



Review

Climate Change, Weather, Housing Precarity, and Homelessness: A Systematic Review of Reviews

Mariya Bezgrebelna ¹, Kwame McKenzie ², Samantha Wells ^{2,3,4,5,6,7}, Arun Ravindran ² , Michael Kral ⁸,
Julia Christensen ⁹ , Vicky Stergiopoulos ², Stephen Gaetz ¹⁰  and Sean A. Kidd ^{2,*}

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34071641/>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11524-020-00483-1>

CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTH

- Heat extremes
- Weather extremes and stress
- Air pollution
- Malnutrition
- Equity

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)



The Journal of Climate Change and Health

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/joclim



Review

Climate change and its implications for developing brains – In utero to youth: A scoping review



Sean A. Kidd^{a,b,*}, Jessica Gong^c, Alessandro Massazza^d, Mariya Bezgrebelna^a, Yali Zhang^e,
Shakoor Hajat^d

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667278223000585>

COLLABORATIONS

Wicked problems require collaborative responses

Aligning efforts examples –
NAS, Planetary Health Alliance,
Wellcome Trust, COP2

Within communities – need to
get better at understanding
processes and the details

CASE EXAMPLE: AUSTRALIA

- “Out of the Storm”: collaborative program based on Trauma-Informed Extreme Weather Resilience Education
- Co-designed by people experiencing homelessness, emergency services and health provider representatives and volunteer graphic designers
- Outreach: peers, emergency resources (kits, posters, maps), conversations

Out of the Storm: extreme weather resilience for community homelessness

Dr Danielle Every¹, Alana Perder² and Sarah Collyer-Braham³

1. Central Queensland University, Adelaide, South Australia

2. Australian Red Cross, Adelaide, South Australia

3. Hutt St Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

Submitted: 9 August 2019; Accepted: 12 October 2019

ABSTRACT

This paper reports on the outcomes of a collaborative, strengths-based program developed to improve the preparedness of people experiencing homelessness during extreme weather in South Australia. The program, Out of the Storm, provided resources for dealing with heat, cold and storms that were co-designed by people experiencing homelessness, emergency services and health provider representatives and

<https://search.informit.org/doi/abs/10.3316/INFORMIT.980118625503503>

CASE EXAMPLE: CANADA

- Youth-led arts-based (journaling, photovoice, painting, song, and video) participatory action research: peer to peer support and adult mentoring
- Outcomes: empowerment, education, increased resilience, protective for psychological wellbeing
- Must be designed without putting excessive stress to avoid burnout and loss of hope



Article

What Can We Learn from Rural Youth in British Columbia, Canada? Environment and Climate Change—Issues and Solutions

Pranita Bhushan Udas , Bonnie Fournier , Tracy Christianson  and Shannon Desbiens

<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/24/13562>

POLICIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION



Policies, response plans and funding need to account for and engage populations at risk



Prevention-oriented funding strategy, including resourcing organizations who are doing outreach in the form of supplies and education



Supporting public health messaging and community engagement to destigmatize the issue



Developing a national housing strategy, cross sectoral and jurisdictional collaborations

WHOLE-OF-COMMUNITY APPROACHES

Participating in the design of coordinated disaster responses and implementing the responses alongside the first responders

Access to water, supplies, and culturally appropriate education about weather-related dangers, warning signs, and steps to be taken

Facilitated access to affordable and weather resilient housing

For those with more complex physical or mental health challenges, supportive housing models may be required (e.g., Housing First)



CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPALS

Prevention and generating data, emphasizing adequate housing.

Inclusion of lived experience – provider engagement, end user engagement.

Localized solutions aligned with existing values and practices.

Equity front and centre.



Thank You!



Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment

This is the final report of a multi-year climate change impact assessment commissioned in 2020 by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, presented to the government in January 2023, and released to the public last month.

Key messages relevant to our sector: Climate change threatens our agriculture and food systems, housing, health, and economy, and it will amplify existing disparities and inequalities.



Shift's response to HOOPP Climate Strategy

HOOPP has shifted a little on fossil fuel investment, but not enough
In the spring of 2023, HOOPP released their new Climate Strategy.

Read Shift's response:



Sign their open letter:



Questions & Discussion



Thank You

