

Environment Community Health Observatory Network

ECHO Launch Event Meeting Report

May 8 – 11, 2017

Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of
resource development



Members of the ECHO Network Team by the Nechako River, in Vanderhoof, BC, May 10, 2017

ECHO LAUNCH EVENT MEETING REPORT

The ECHO Network (Environment, Community, Health Observatory).
Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development.

The ECHO Network is a 5-year research program, funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Team Grant, focused on working together across sectors to better understand and respond to the health, environment and community impacts of resource development.

Environment Community Health Observatory (ECHO) Network
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, British Columbia
Canada V2N 4Z9
Tel.: +1 (250) 960-6342
Fax: +1 (250) 960-5744
E-mail: Diana.Kutzner@unbc.ca
Web site: (under development)

Suggested citation:

Kutzner, D., Vinegar, M., Parkes, M.W. (2017). *ECHO Launch Event Meeting Report*. ECHO Network and Northern Health, Prince George, BC.

The ECHO Network involves collaboration and organisational support from the following organisations;



The ECHO Network receives funding support from a Health for Intersectoral Prevention Research (2017-2021)

CIHR Team Grant in Environments and



We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gathered throughout our launch meeting and continue to work is the traditional unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh peoples and Saik'uz territory.

Table of Contents

Summary	iv
Résumé	iv
Day 1 - May 8, 2017	1
Day 2 - May 9, 2017	2
2.1 What Should Be	2
2.2 What Is	4
Day 3 - May 10, 2017	4
3.1 What Could Be	4
Day 4 - May 11, 2017	6
4.1 What Can Be	6
Appendices	9
Appendix A: List of Participants (including province or country, nBC is northern BC)	9
Appendix B: The Agenda: Meeting at a Glance	10
Appendix C: Four-Page Overview: Introducing the ECHO Network	11
List of Photos:	
Members of the ECHO Network Team by the Nechako River, Vanderhoof, BC, May 10, 2017	front
ECHO Network members indicating where they are from at the ECHO launch event, Two Rivers Gallery	1
Members of the ECHO Network examining a map of the First Nations Health Authority regional case area.	2
Team members share their rich pictures with each other.	3
ECHO Network Launch team on Day 2	4
Christine Landry at the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) Hatchery	5
ECHO Team welcomed to Saik'uz Territory	5
Exchanging ideas in break out groups in the playground of WL McLeod Elementary School, Vanderhoof	6
Meeting attendees engaged in conversation below project timeline	7

Summary

Between May 8-11, 2017, university researchers and research partners from across Canada and internationally, came together for four days to launch a new national project, titled: “*The ECHO Network (Environment, Community, Health Observatory): Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development*”. The ECHO Network is a 5-year research program, funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Team Grant, focused on working together across sectors to better understand and respond to the cumulative health, environment and community impacts of resource development¹.

The research team is led by a steering committee comprised of different sectors, disciplines and communities, which is co-chaired by Dr. Margot Parkes, and Dr. Sandra Allison, Chief Medical Health officer at Northern Health. Over the next five years, more than 60 people will work together as the ECHO Network (Environment, Community, Health Observatory). The research draws on experience and expertise spanning health, social and natural sciences from four regional cases and beyond. Two are in B.C. (one in northern BC and the other cross-province), and the others in Alberta and New Brunswick respectively. The ECHO Network Launch took place on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T’enneh, in Prince George, and Saik’uz First Nation in Vanderhoof, British Columbia and welcomed representatives from key partners of the project, including from the Battle River Watershed Alliance, Canadian Wildlife Health Consortium, First Nations Health Authority, New Brunswick Environmental Network, Northern Health, Simon Fraser University, University of Alberta, Université de Moncton and many more. Research partners from New Zealand, Australia and across Canada participated virtually.

Résumé

Entre le 8 et le 11 mai 2017, des chercheurs universitaires et des partenaires de recherche de partout au Canada ainsi qu’au niveau international se sont réunis pendant quatre jours afin de lancer un nouveau projet intitulé «Le Réseau ECHO (Observatoire sur l’Environnement, la Communauté et la Santé) : renforcer les capacités intersectorielles afin de comprendre et de réagir aux effets du développement de ressources sur la santé». Le réseau ECHO est un programme de recherche de 5 ans, financé par une subvention de l’équipe de recherche des Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada, axé sur la collaboration entre secteurs afin de mieux comprendre et réagir aux effets cumulatifs des impacts du développement de ressources sur la santé, l’environnement et les communautés².

L’équipe de recherche est menée par un Comité directeur compris de différents secteurs, disciplines et communautés. Les co-présidentes du comité sont Dr. Margot Parkes et Dr. Sandra Allison, médecin hygiéniste en chef à Northern Health. Au cours des prochaines cinq années, plus de 60 personnes travailleront ensemble, formant le réseau ECHO (Observatoire sur l’Environnement, la Communauté et la Santé) qui inclura de l’expertise dans les des domaines de la santé, des sciences sociales et des sciences naturelles. La recherche tirera des expériences de quatre cas régionaux. Deux d’entre eux sont en Colombie-Britannique et les autres sont en Alberta et au Nouveau-Brunswick, respectivement. Le lancement du Réseau ECHO eut lieu dans le territoire traditionnel des Lheidli T’enneh, à Prince George, et à la Première Nation de Saik’uz, à Vanderhoof, en Colombie-Britannique. Des représentants des partenaires clés furent présents, incluant des représentants de l’Alliance du bassin versant

¹ A guiding reference for the ECHO Network in understanding and responding to the cumulative impacts of resource development is book by UNBC researchers that also informed the establishment of UNBC’s Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium:

Gillingham, M. P., Halseth, G. R., Johnson, C. J., & Parkes, M. W. (2016). *The Integration Imperative: Cumulative Environmental, Community and Health Impacts of Multiple Natural Resource Developments*. Springer International Publishing AG.

² Une référence fondatrice pour le Réseau ECHO en ce qui concerne comprendre et réagir aux impacts cumulatifs du développement de ressources est un livre par des chercheurs de l’Université du N.-B. qui a également informé l’établissement du Consortium de recherche sur les impacts cumulatifs de UNBC:

Gillingham, M. P., Halseth, G. R., Johnson, C. J., & Parkes, M. W. (2016). *The Integration Imperative: Cumulative Environmental, Community and Health Impacts of Multiple Natural Resource Developments*. Springer International Publishing AG.

ECHO LAUNCH EVENT MEETING REPORT

de Battle River, le Consortium Canadien sur la santé de la faune, l’Autorité de la santé des Premières Nations, le Réseau environnemental du Nouveau-Brunswick, Northern Health, Simon Fraser University, University of Alberta, Université de Moncton et bien plus. Des partenaires de recherche de la Nouvelle-Zélande, de l’Australie et d’ailleurs au Canada ont participé virtuellement.



Members of the ECHO Network examining a map of the First Nations Health Authority regional case area. Clockwise, from top left: Céline Surette, Raissa Marks, Raina Fumerton, Jamie Reschny, Arwyn Miller Gislason, Maya Gislason, Vanessa Sloan Morgan, Linda Pillsworth, Nicole Cross

Day 2 - May 9, 2017

Day two was hosted at UNBC. Dr. Sarah de Leeuw and Dr. Henry Harder led into the day with two memorable stories. Dr. Harder shared a story he would often tell his grandkids, about the choice everyone makes to feed the ‘good wolf’ or the ‘bad wolf’ when faced with challenging situations, especially when working with others. Dr. de Leeuw spoke to some of the outcomes of natural resource extraction, sharing powerful reflections from how her dad, a painter and guitar player, who described these impositions on the landscape as “ugly”. She challenged us to consider the important tension between ugliness and beauty, and to foster a sense of wonder throughout the project.

This was followed with a brief re-orientation to the ECHO Network and the questioning framework, which provided a guiding thread throughout the launch event, presented by project co-leads Dr. Margot Parkes of UNBC, and Dr. Sandra Allison of Northern Health. The guiding questions of ‘**what should be**’, ‘**what is**’, ‘**what could be**’, and ‘**what can be**’, were introduced, reflecting approaches used in other collective learning processes that seek to address complex problems at the interface of health and sustainability³. The overall intent of the second day was to introduced in relation to working through the first two questions of ‘**what should be**’ and ‘**what is**’.

2.1 What Should Be

Dr. Lars Hallström challenged the group to address the question of ‘**what should be**’ through a **scenario planning exercise** and by breaking out into five smaller groups. Dr. Hallström began by likening the exercise to going on vacation and the planning process involved – you begin with the destination and plan how to get there. Similarly, scenario planning offers a structured way to think about and explore what makes some futures more desirable over others. Four questions guided the exercise: (1) Where do we want to arrive? (Functionality of end

³ The collective learning questions of ‘**what should be**’, ‘**what is**’, ‘**what could be**’, and ‘**what can be**’, are informed by Brown, V. A. (2010). *Collective Inquiry and Its Wicked Problems*. In V. A. Brown, J. Harris, & J. Russel (Eds), *Tackling Wicked Problems: Through the Transdisciplinary Imagination*. (pp. 61–83). Washington, DC: Earthscan.

ECHO NETWORK

points) (2) What affects getting to our destination? (3) What trends and trajectories influence the journey? (4) What are we forgetting/what are the assumptions we are making?

Common themes emerged across breakout groups from the discussion of these four scenario-oriented questions. (1) Groups identified the need to move towards primordial prevention, moving upstream to address source causes of resource extraction issues and to do so through more intersectoral work. A desire was expressed to increase capacity to respond to issues and see the health outcomes change for the better. In regards to (2), many felt the political environment, governance, global and transnational links, as well as the public attitude and knowledge would heavily influence the work the ECHO Network has set out to do. Trends and trajectories (3) were described in relation to the rise of neoliberalism, a lack of simple solutions, the urban vs rural divide, a shift from climate change prevention to adaptation, the need for truth and reconciliation, noting that each would influence the path ahead. Participants described ‘disruption’ as a way to fuel new ways of thinking and doing. In response to (4), groups described how Canadian resource extraction issues are often linked to foreign capital and the legal environment. The team was challenged to check and challenge our assumptions, such as the idea that better and more integration will inevitably lead to better decision making, or that government is going to be receptive, and that silos are going to be able to be broken down. The need to consider the artistic, experiential process as important as other outcomes was identified as an important opportunity. The groups discussed how training influences how we see the world, and the important recognition of different ways of perceiving the world. Discussion identified several shared assumptions that resonated across the group: that change is possible, desirable and can lead to better outcomes, that there is a need to be accountable and that we need to allow for (and celebrate) failures.



Team members share their rich pictures with each other. From Left to Right: Wanzor Beaubrun and Sarah de Leeuw; Kate Snedeker and Sandra Allison; Tim Takaro and Céline Surette

In order to explore other perspectives on ‘what should be’, the next session focused on a **rich picture exercise**, led by Margot Parkes. This exercise asked participants to draw what it could look like to achieve the ECHO Network aims. Diverse depictions and vibrant discussions resulted from this exercise, with overlapping depictions and themes including portrayals of healthy ecosystems, a common sense understanding of desired outcomes in relation to health and thriving futures, hope for the future, and the constraints the Network may face going forward.

2.2 What Is

Following lunch, the group moved on from discussions of ‘what should be’ into gaining an overview of ‘**what is**’, as each regional team offered a short presentation of the key opportunities, challenges, and features of their regional case. Following the regional case presentations, the group moved into a discussion on the **synergies or strengths** across the regional cases – including creation of dynamic ‘tableaus’, facilitated by the NBEN team.



ECHO Network Launch team on Day 2. From Left to Right: Top: Jennifer Baddeley, Marlee Vinegar, Raina Fumerton, Robert Woollard, Ben Brisbois, Tim Takaro, Todd Arsenault, Madeline Wilson, Joseph Gothreau, Shayna Dolan, David Samm, Tanis Hampe, Chris Buse, Vanessa Sloan Morgan. Middle: Henry Harder, Sarah de Leeuw, Tom Okey, Sandra Allison, Wanzor Beaubrun, Lindsay Beck, Christine Landry, Jennifer Vigano, Céline Surette, Linda Pillsworth, Diana Kutzner, Dionne Sanderson, Lars Hallström, May Farrales, Melanie Aalhus, Barb Oke, Kate Snedeker, Raissa Marks, Sarah Skinner, Margot Parkes, Arywn Miller Gislason, Maya Gislason.

In the afternoon, the ECHO Network team at UNBC was joined virtually by several members of the ECHO Network Oceania team. Brief presentations by Drs. Helen Moewaka-Barnes, Pierre Horwitz and Tony Capon provided an overview of the Oceania ECHO connections in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii. Highlights from the discussion following these introductions resonated with the aspirations which the ECHO team had discussed earlier this day, particularly with regards to the desire to frame health and well-being in a way which would allow for it to become the centre of decision making in different governance contexts. In addition, the conversation shifted towards a global focus, acknowledging the need for discourse and action on health at a planetary level, and the need to allow learning within scales across locations and across scales.

Vanessa Sloan Morgan and May Farrales closed the day by providing a synthesis of the discussions of the day. In addition to reflections on some fertile tensions arising during the day, the team was provoked by some memorable metaphors, noting “cracks are where the light seeps in” and that the good and the bad wolves may both need to be fed.

Day 3 - May 10, 2017

3.1 What Could Be

Day three of the ECHO launch began with an early start to get on the road to Vanderhoof, BC as part of the field trip component of the ECHO meeting. Vanderhoof is a rural community of about 5000 located about 1 hour west of Prince George with strong links to the ECHO Network as well as the Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium at UNBC. A key focus of the field trip activities and conversations was to explore ‘**what could be**’ in an integrative and intersectoral way. Our day was co-hosted by the District of Vanderhoof and School District 91 (SD 91), and included a combined welcome from Jasmine Thomas (Councillor Saik’uz First Nation) and Gerry Thiessen (Mayor, District of Vanderhoof), a visit to the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI), and interactions and a community panel discussion at the SD91 Training Facility at W.L. McLeod Elementary School.

ECHO NETWORK

During the first session, ECHO launch attendees who were able to travel to Vanderhoof broke out into four teams based on interest in the four **proposed tools and processes** of particular interest to the Network: Geospatial Tools, Creative and Arts-based tools, Indicators, and tools for Cumulative Impact Assessment. This session engaged individuals in thinking creatively about the activities, tools, and processes the project could identify, trial, and adapt to progress the ECHO Network's goals. The launch attendees then transitioned to the **Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative Hatchery** where they were joined by several teachers of School District 91, for a presentation by Wayne Salewski, Chair of the Nechako Environment Water Stewardship Society. Wayne provided the group with a detailed overview of the White Sturgeon recovery initiative as an example of a key local response to the multiple resource development activities in the area. Visitors to the hatchery were able to see mature sturgeon, which can grow to three meters in length.



Christine Landry at the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) Hatchery



ECHO Team welcomed to Saik'uz Territory: From left: Joseph Gothreau, Arwyn Miller Gislason, Jasmine Thomas, Margot Parkes, Raina Fumerton, Dionne Sanderson, Darren Carpenter

Following the hatchery visit, attendees walked to the nearby Riverside Park which overlooks the Nechako River where they received a welcome to the traditional lands of the Saik'uz First Nation by Jasmine Thomas (Saik'uz First Nation Councilor), and to the District of Vanderhoof by Mayor Gerry Thiessen and local Councilor Darren Carpenter joined the group. Mayor Thiessen highlighted the District of Vanderhoof's unfolding relationship with the Nechako River and watershed, particularly the strong links the local community has with the river, and how the health of the river is an important indicator of the health of the surrounding environment and community.

The afternoon began with a panel discussion with the theme of: *'Legacies and next-generation priorities: Taking notice of environment, community and health connections for the future of the Nechako'*. The intersectoral panel included Jasmine Thomas, Saik'uz First Nation; Sean Ebert, Family Physician; Theresa Fresco, Nechako Watershed Roundtable/Fraser Basin Council; and Casey Litton, Nechako Valley Secondary School, and was moderated by Chris Buse. Several students from SD 91 joined the panel discussion. The discussion highlighted the range of opportunities Vanderhoof has as a small community with strong connections with the land but which is heavily dependent upon natural resource extraction and thus heavily impacted by such developments in the area. The group discussed the need for reconciliation and greater inclusiveness, as well as the need to shift the way we understand the world around us, moving away from putting things into boxes to understanding the

ECHO LAUNCH EVENT MEETING REPORT

interconnectedness of the whole. There were numerous comments regarding what the future of the Nechako watershed could look like and how decision making can be aligned with the need for interconnectedness. A recurring theme was the importance of youth as being essential to making this shift, toward a new way to approach and overcome challenges, and to build connections between environment, community, and health. The students who were able to attend engaged actively in the discussion and highlighted their passion for the local community and environment and their desire to protect the environment for future generations. In closing, the panelists noted they were hopeful in their pursuit of positive change, and Jasmine Thomas in particular challenged attendees to consider how reconciliation could be brought into the work that the ECHO project is undertaking.

Following the panel discussion, attendees split into three groups to consider what they had experienced in Vanderhoof that day and to explore how they could strive to move beyond “business as usual” to achieve collective impact through the ECHO project. Breakout groups focused on discussing three specific topics to identify what enables real intersectoral actions: **collective impact; task prioritization; and gender, power, and equity.**

Sharing the insights gained during their discussion, the **collective impact** breakout group highlighted the research design challenge involved with the cross-fertilization the ECHO project hopes to achieve. Key insights gained through the four-day launch must not be lost but rather an effort must be made to document the information and knowledge exchanged to inform future action. Communication was seen as key to the project success while also acknowledging that, even if communication and cross-fertilization is successful and effective, large-scale projects such as the ECHO project have the potential to derail (and re-rail) with the five years.

The breakout group that discussed **task prioritization** felt that it was essential to hold or make a space for ‘virtual coffee shops’ where individuals collaborating across the country could meet easily and as informally as they could in-person. There was a clear need for the development of structures which would serve both the case studies and the network to ensure that the project would end up where it had intended to land as it is easy to get sidetracked.



Exchanging ideas in break out groups in the playground of WL McLeod Elementary School, Vanderhoof. From left: David Samm, NVSS student, Céline Surette, Chris Buse, Tom Okey, Raissa Marks, Sarah Skinner, May Farrales, Maya Gislason, Henry Harder, Melissa Aalhus, Sarah de Leeuw, Bob Woollard, Vanessa Sloan Morgan, Dionne Sanderson, Diana Kutzner, Madeline Wilson, Ben Brisbois

Lastly, the group discussion on **gender, power, and equity** comprised a wide range of topics from racialization and reconciliation considerations, through to gender and equity lenses to contrarianism. Questions revolved around how ECHO participants could ensure the project would attempt to do things differently in regards to gender, power, and equity and ensure there will be accountability. These themes needed to have a narrative and reflective thread which weaves through the entire five-year project; that a space will be held which will allow to doing things radically differently yet be honest with ourselves even if it is not achieved. A possibility that was discussed was to engage in some education around these themes due to a lack of clarity around understanding and achieving equity in the context of this project. Overall there was a clear desire to engage in reflection on how the ECHO group is going to work together, how it sees the world, and recognition that this will influence how the group collects data and the solutions it creates. There is a need to hold a space for openness, reflexivity, and dialogue.

Day 4 - May 11, 2017

4.1 What Can Be

Day four was held at the Ramada Hotel, focusing in on ‘**what can be**’ and **determining next steps** for the ECHO Network. The morning began with a presentation of the project work plan by Diana Kutzner. This was followed

ECHO NETWORK

by an overview of the project budget and how it will be divided among the four regional cases and spread over the five years was given by Dr. Parkes. Specifics of budget allocation relating to student travel and CoPEH-Canada emphasized the network's strong commitment to mentoring, exchange, and capacity building.

Next, Dr. Harder posed a question regarding opportunities for **experiential activities**, which led to a discussion about the role of observation and ground-truthing throughout the project and about the value of taking notice even if action cannot always come from the observations. The need to witness the relationships, connectivity, and disruptions across environment, community, and health was expressed as a desire, intent, and challenge. The commitment to document the processes occurring within the network as part of its greater evaluation were also surfaced and strongly supported by the team. Dr. de Leeuw committed to working with others across the team in co-designing a 'scribe' or '**creative observer**' role, in collaboration with the Health Arts Research Centre she directs.

In order to identify priorities and tasks for year one of the project attendees broke off into 5 groups, discussing respectively (i) Regional Case 'Cool Tools', (ii) Entrance Interviews, (iii) Knowledge Synthesis, (iv) Experiential/Creative Observer, and (v) Environmental Scan of Secondary Data. The **cool tools** group identified that there are numerous 'cool tools' already in use and what is needed is a platform and processes, such as project management software, through which these tools can be shared across sites. The group proposed a 'random pairing generator' to facilitate conversations among individuals across sites, a template for profiling tools and processes from regional cases, and highlighted the role of the operations committee (among regional case coordinators) as a means through which tools, ideas, and challenges can be shared.

Meeting attendees engaged in conversation below project timeline
From left: Robert Woollard, Tanis Hampe, Diana Kutzner, Raissa Marks, May Farrales, Kate Snedeker



The **entrance interview** group provided guidance for the design of a semi-structured interview to occur as soon as research ethics approval is obtained. In addition, the group highlighted the need for an entrance survey, which would capture more descriptive information about ECHO Network members and potentially allow for an assessment of network change over time. The **knowledge synthesis** breakout group discussed the potential focus of realist reviews that could be informed by and incorporate the entrance interview data and the regional cases. The **experiential and creative observer** group elaborated on the role of a creative observer as part of the ECHO Network and the importance of this and related team engagement to the transformative aspect of the project and in helping to share and profile the lessons and experiences from the network. The group proposed designing a way for all team members to engage in critical reflection about their personal engagement in the project once a year. Finally, the **secondary data** group highlighted the need to identify what possible 'ideal' data sources may be for this network and that the scan of secondary data sources will need to take an iterative approach. The LEO Network and UNBC portal were identified as useful platforms to spatially link data across regional cases.

In the afternoon, Donald Cole and Melanie Lémire joined the launch attendees virtually to discuss the trainee mentorship and capacity building goals of the ECHO Network. The discussion touched on the need to provide opportunities for skill development, boundary crossing and mentorship, as well as opening up of career paths for the next generation of researchers and practitioners. Students across all levels of education were identified as important to capacity building and as partners, along with a commitment to youth (and school) engagement in each region. A **commitment to collect longitudinal data to assess and guide capacity strengthening** activities was made. The last session of the day consolidated next steps in terms of timelines and opportunities for future interaction. Team members reflected on lessons and memorable moments since the launch meeting commenced.

ECHO LAUNCH EVENT MEETING REPORT

The Battle River Watershed Alliance regional site was announced to be the host of the next ECHO meeting, with the dates confirmed as July 30 - Aug 3, 2018. Elder Edie Frederick closed the meeting in the late afternoon with a prayer.

Appendices

Appendix A: List of Participants (including province or country, nBC is northern BC)

Melissa Aalhus, nBC	Maya Gislason, BC	Linda Pillsworth, BC
Sandra Allison, nBC	Joseph Gothreau, nBC	Jamie Reschny, nBC
Todd Arsenault, NB	Lars Hallström, AB	Wayne Salewski*, nBC
Jennifer Baddeley, nBC	Tanis Hampe, nBC	David Samm, AB
Wanzor Beaubrun, NB	Henry Harder, nBC	Dionne Sanderson, BC
Lindsay Beck, BC	Pierre Horwitz**, Australia	Sarah Skinner, AB
Barry Booth, BC	Aaron Jenkins**, Australia	Vanessa Sloan Morgan, BC
Ben Brisbois, ON	Sonya Kruger, nBC	Kate Snedeker, AB
Chris Buse, nBC	Diana Kutzner, nBC	Craig Stephen, BC/SK
Darren Carpenter*, nBC	Christine Landry, NB	Céline Surette, NB
Tony Capon**, Australia	Melanie Lemire **, QB	Tim Takaro, BC
Donald Cole **, ON	Casey Litton*, nBC	Gerry Thiessen, nBC
Nicole Cross, nBC	Raissa Marks, NB	Jasmine Thomas*, nBC
Sarah de Leeuw, nBC	Tim McCreanor**, NZ	Cathy Ulrich, nBC
Shayna Dolan, nBC	Helen Moewaka-Barnes**, NZ	Jennifer Vigano, nBC
Sean Ebert*, nBC	Nadia Nowak, nBC	Marlee Vinegar, BC
May Farrales, BC	Barbara Oke, nBC	Al Wiensczyk, BC
Edie Frederick, nBC	Thomas Okey, BC	Madeline Wilson, nBC
Theresa Fresco, nBC	Margot Parkes, nBC	Robert Woollard, BC
Raina Fumerton, nBC	Geoff Payne, nBC	

* Hosts and Panelists in Vanderhoof (Day 2)

** Team member participated in meeting remotely

Other ECHO Team members (Co-Applicants, Collaborators, Research Partners, Knowledge Users) not in Prince George for the Launch meeting

Evan Adams, BC	Greg Halseth, nBC	Kaileah McKellar, ON
Mike Brubaker, Alaska, US	Bonnie Hamilton-Bogart, NB	David Marshall, BC
Martin Bunch, ON	Trevor Hancock, BC	Philip Owens, nBC
Heather Castleden, ON	Garth Harmsworth, NZ	Ellen Petticrew, nBC
Alyre Chiasson, NB	Deena Hinshaw, AB	Blake Poland, ON
Mary Ann Coleman, NB	Brian Joubett, AB	Jennifer Psyllakis, BC
Stephen Dery, nBC	Serge Larochelle, NB	Johanne Saint-Charles, QB
Art Fredeen, nBC	Nancy Lewis, Hawaii, US	Carole Tranchant, NB
Lindsay Galway, ON	David Loewen, nBC	Cathy Vaillancourt, QB
Mike Gilbert, nBC	Fabienne Mackay, NB	Jena Webb, QB
Margo Greenwood, nBC	Jeff Masuda, ON	Patrick Zimmer, SK

ECHO LAUNCH EVENT MEETING REPORT

Appendix B: The Agenda: Meeting at a Glance

May 8	**Two Rivers Gallery**
5:30 pm	- Doors open: Registration/Meet & Greet (<i>Finger-food and Cash Bar</i>)
6:00 pm	- Formal Launch of the ECHO Network (<i>incl.: Welcomes from local FN, NH and UNBC</i>)
7:00 pm	- Transition (<i>Tapas Dinner by Hummus Brothers</i>)
7:30 - 9 pm	- Interactive introductions and orientations
May 9	**University of Northern British Columbia**
7:15am	- Visitors meet at Ramada Hotel: Shuttle up to UNBC
7:30am	<i>Hot Breakfast – UNBC Conference Centre RM 6-205/211</i>
8:30am	- Welcome and orientation agenda: building on project launch
9:00am - 12pm	WHAT SHOULD BE? (Ideals, Principles, Aspirations)
9:00am	- Scenarios for Success exercise: a desired future - how can this project get us there?
10:30am	<i>Break & refreshments</i>
11:00am	- Rich Picture exercise
12:00pm	<i>Lunch - UNBC Conference Centre RM 6-205/211</i>
12:30pm	<i>Tour(s) of UNBC and GIS Lab. Some BC participants may need to leave to vote!</i>
1:30pm -5pm	WHAT IS? (Facts, Parameters, Examples)
1:30pm	- ~15 min presentations / introduction of Regional Cases
2:45pm	<i>Break & refreshments (available throughout the afternoon)</i>
3:00pm	- Discussion of synergies ‘across’ regional case presentation
4:00 pm	- Brief orientation and input from Oceania team members
4:45 pm	- Synthesis, wrap up for the day...
5:00pm	<i>Close and transition to Meet & Greet event (NUSC Event Space: down the corridor)</i>
5:05pm	UNBC-ECHO Meet & Greet followed by ECHO trivia and prizes: <i>Appetizers and Cash Bar</i>
7:00pm	<i>Transition to dinner, downtown Prince George: Betulla Burning, 1253 3rd Ave (Optional)</i>
May 10	**Field trip to Nechako Watershed: Vanderhoof and Cluculz Lake**
7:00am	<i>Breakfast at Ramada Hotel</i>
8:00am	Bus pick-up at Ramada Hotel, then UNBC (8:10am): Destination Vanderhoof
9:30am-5pm	WHAT COULD BE? (Ideas, Potential, Design)
9:30am	- Open Space Session focused on Tools: Indicators, Geospatial, Impact, Narrative
11:00am- 3pm	- Interactions with Vanderhoof partners and community members: - Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative Hatchery; Welcome & lunch at Riverside Park (Saik’uz FN, Mayor of Vanderhoof), Panel discussion at SD 91.
3:00pm	- Transition to Open Space Session (team only): Emerging themes
4:45pm -9pm	<i>Transition to Cluculz Lake, dinner at Cabin Restaurant. Transition back to PG: to arrive ~9pm</i>
May 11	**Full day at Ramada Hotel**
7:30am	<i>Breakfast at Ramada Hotel</i>
9:30am-2pm	WHAT CAN BE? (Actions, Practice, Specific Plans)
8:30am	- Focus on workplan, time-sensitive launch-phase tasks, research priorities (+ break)
10:30am	- Proposed working group themes → Timelines and workplan for working groups
12:00pm	<i>Lunch (provided) + media /launch profiling activities</i>
1:00pm	- Emerging themes/task group discussions
2:00pm-4:30pm	SYNTHESIS: Plenary feedback from working groups and discussion (<i>break available</i>)
3:30pm	NEXT STEPS: Final plenary: timelines, milestones and next steps working
4:30pm	<i>Close. Optional evening activities for those remaining</i>

Appendix C: Four-Page Overview: Introducing the ECHO Network

{{ECHO}}

Environment, Community, Health Observatory Network

Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development



Introducing the ECHO Network

The ECHO Network is a 5-year research program, funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Team Grant, focused on working together across sectors to take notice of – and respond to – the influences of resource development on health and well-being, with specific emphasis on rural, remote and Indigenous communities and environments.

Our project brings together university researchers and research partners across Canada and internationally, who have identified a need to better understand and address the health, environment and community impacts of resource development. Our research team is led by a steering committee of different sectors, disciplines and communities, which is co-chaired by Dr. Margot Parkes, Canada Research Chair in Health, Ecosystems and Society at the University of Northern British Columbia, and Dr. Sandra Allison, Chief Medical Health Officer at Northern Health in BC.

The Need

Health is influenced by resource development through interrelated socioeconomic, ecological, cultural, and political pathways, which demand upstream, intersectoral responses. These relationships are especially important in Canada, where the economy remains tightly coupled with the development of natural resources and where the rate and scale of social and environmental change occurring in resource-rich regions is fueling debate regarding health impacts, especially for rural, remote and Indigenous communities

The ECHO Network brings together national and international partners to respond to two overlapping needs. First is a need for integrative tools and processes to detect, take notice of, analyze and respond to the health impacts of resource development. Second is the need to understand and respond to the cumulative impacts of resource development in ways that recognize combined environmental, community and health impacts resulting from past, present and future resource development across time and space.

A framework of learning and action underpins the ECHO Network (**Figure 1**). Drawing on these processes, the ECHO Network seeks to:

1. create and operate an Environment, Community, Health Observatory (ECHO) that strengthens intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development, and
2. use the ECHO platform to help regional programs make critical decisions on cumulative determinants of health that cannot be achieved by the health sector alone.

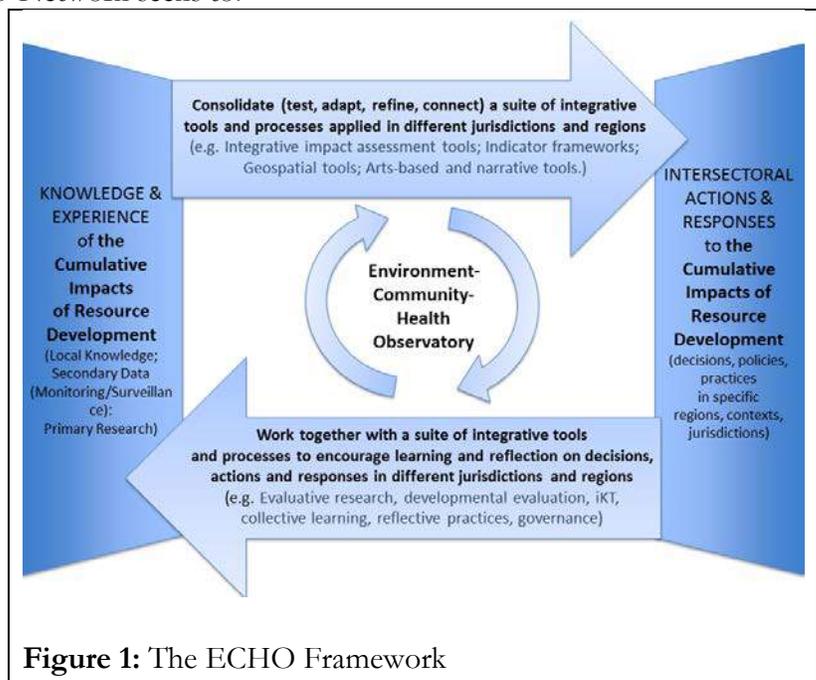


Figure 1: The ECHO Framework

{ECHO}

Environment, Community, Health Observatory Network

Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development

Project Background

The ECHO Network: (1) is an interdisciplinary group of over 50 people across Canada including experienced health, environmental and social science researchers and practitioners and; (2) includes four regional cases (in New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and Northern BC). In each regional case, knowledge users or regional case partners, have identified decision-support needs that demand a better integration of environment, community and health impacts. Regional cases are linked with UNBC, Université de Moncton, University of Alberta, and Simon Fraser University. The project is administered through UNBC. The ECHO will provide tools and processes that connect people to a network of information, practices and people to develop a shared perspective and more effective responses to the cumulative impacts of resource development. The research will involve four components, each linked to specific objectives, mentorship and capacity building processes over five years. The ECHO Network also involves a wider network of collaborations and partnerships across in other parts of Canada and internationally.

Project Aims

Our research will develop innovative methods to identify and prioritise intersectoral prevention opportunities that foster safe, healthy and sustainable environments and reduce health inequities. The research aims to:

1. make evidence-based recommendations on the form and function of a cross-jurisdictional ECHO that will foster integrative understanding of the complex dynamics of resource development and health, and;
2. trial and evaluate intersectoral strategies to address the cumulative determinants of health that interact over time and space, targeting actions and responses that cannot be achieved by the health sector alone.

Regional Cases

The research program is anchored in **four regional cases**, in jurisdictions actively grappling with the health impacts of resource extraction and development, whose specific contexts provide a foundation to address research objectives. The organisations involved with each of the four regional cases are

- New Brunswick Environmental Network (with the NB Children’s Environmental Health Collaborative);
- Alberta’s Battle River Watershed Alliance;
- BC’s First Nations Health Authority;
- BC’s Northern Health Authority; and
- International partners from the Oceania region.

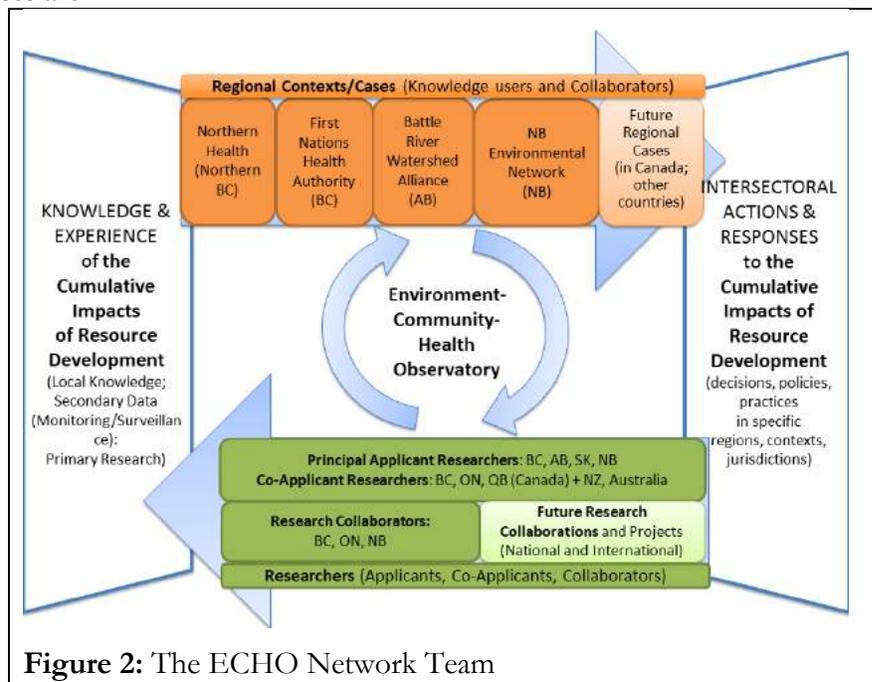


Figure 2: The ECHO Network Team



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



{{ECHO}}

Environment, Community, Health Observatory Network

Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development

In each regional case (**Figure 2**), knowledge-users have identified decision-support needs or issues that warrant better integration of environment, community and health impacts, demanding intersectoral responses, that stretch beyond their jurisdictional mandates and capacities, and that could benefit from the integrative, networked knowledge, tools, processes, learning and action orientation of the ECHO Network. The complex demands of our regional cases require a multi-faceted and experienced research team. All members of the team have experience relevant to this task, with a history of collaboration either with the project leads or with the knowledge-user leads in each regional case. The research also benefits from cross-jurisdictional engagement across Canada, co-applicants from Australia and New Zealand, and international collaborators who have identified the ECHO Network as a timely response to the cumulative impacts of resource development.

Governance

The governance of the ECHO Network will be integral to the success of project. The ECHO project governance as “*a process whereby societies or organizations make their important decisions, determine who they involve in the process and how they render account*”. The breadth and diversity of the academic and community partners involved in this project, as well as the scope of research content demands an adaptive governance structure that is well-defined, while also allowing emergence and learning throughout an iterative five-year research program.

The ECHO Network is structured around four levels of collective, representative governance. The governance structure depicted in **Figure 3** links specific governance committees with the overall structure and functions of the ECHO Network (see **Figure 1 and 2** above). In addition to roles as a researcher, regional case partners, and/or collaborator, each member of the ECHO Network will engage in one of the committees, or as members of active Working Groups.

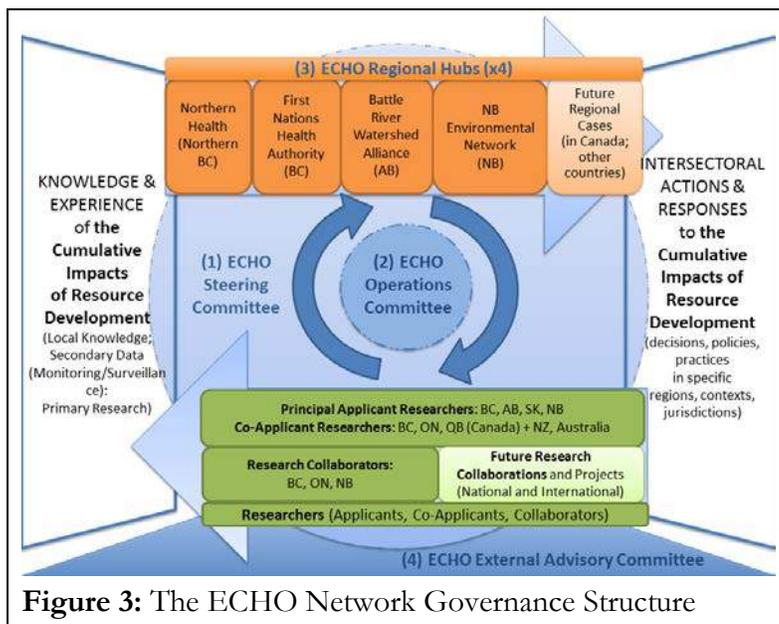


Figure 3: The ECHO Network Governance Structure

The ECHO Network intends to operate through consensus-based decision-making. Except when meeting in person, all meetings would be held through audio-visual platforms to enable both web-based and/or teleconference participation, that facilitates communication across time-zones and distance. In addition to virtual meetings, an annual in-person ECHO Network team meeting is planned with budget provided to support ~20 team members, including the Steering Committee, Operations Committee and Regional Coordinators. Committee chairs will meet together twice per year or as needed to ensure necessary communication, exchange and information flow among the various committees and governance units. Learning across regional cases will develop throughout the project.



{{{ECHO}}}

Environment, Community, Health Observatory Network

Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development

Capacity-strengthening, Mentorship, Training and Education

The ECHO Network will create an environment that fosters learning and mentoring of new cadre of researchers, practitioners and—through our regional hubs—community members, who are equipped to engage with cross-cutting challenges of the cumulative impacts of resource development that cannot be achieved by the health sector alone. We will prioritise:

Capacity-Strengthening: A combination of capacity-strengthening, mentorship and targeted training activities will feature throughout the research process. The team and our partners enter the program with content expertise in numerous areas relevant to capacity-strengthening. As the research progresses, this existing knowledge will be supplemented with new knowledge gained through research and evaluation activities, which will in turn be shared throughout the ECHO Network.

Mentorship: The supervision of research trainees forms part of a “cascade of mentorship” which would occur across the ECHO network and also at the regional level through diverse models. We note in particular the reciprocal nature of this relationship, whereby regional case partners and collaborators may mentor research team members and trainees on their understanding and working in different intersectoral contexts; researchers may mentor knowledge users and collaborators on approaches and tools, including integrated information management platforms; and knowledge users may mentor researchers through the difficult work involved in grappling with the cumulative impacts of resource development decisions. We envision mentorship occurring among colleagues from regional through to international levels to address these complexities.

Linking to training and education: Consistent with the reflective, learning-oriented approach of the ECHO Framework and evaluative research, the ECHO Network will develop academics, practitioners, and citizens grounded and experienced in *integrative*, rather than specialized, approaches to intersectoral research and practice. The interaction between capacity strengthening and mentoring across researchers, trainees, knowledge users and collaborators will be developed through a suite of training and education activities that are integral to the ECHO research design, including: targeted workshops and symposia at regional and annual meetings; co-designing regionally case-informed learning in conjunction with CoPEH-Canada’s multi-institutional hybrid course; co-design of continuing professional development activities consistent with education and training for Ecological Determinants of Health; as well as supervision, training and national, international exchanges of Highly Qualified Personnel.

Integrated knowledge translation and exchange

Benefits of the proposed Integrated Knowledge Translation (iKT) and learning-oriented approach of the ECHO Network, include multiple opportunities for integrated and iterative design of knowledge translation and exchange, through the regional and network level workshops and activities. The network will leverage off precedents and strategies for national knowledge translation, exchange and outreach, including by not restricted to:

- an established culture of online webinars, dialogues and KTA tools;
- benefitting from the expertise of UNBC’s Health Arts Research Centre for arts and humanities focused outreach and knowledge exchange;
- opportunities for sharing and dissemination results across multiple community, research and policy audiences in conjunctions with regional knowledge user;
- involvement of international researchers as part of the research team from the outset

Knowledge exchange will consider local, regional, national and international partners with targeted approaches being identified and developed informed by the research findings and priorities identified throughout the research, across regional cases and working groups.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

