

{{ECHO}} Update

MARCH
2018

Environment, Community, Health Observatory Network:
Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand
and respond to health impacts of resource development



Facilitators and youth attendees of the 2018 CIRC Forum engaging in a group exercise to draw connections amongst the cumulative impacts of resource extraction

Welcome to our first quarterly ECHO update for 2018!

- We started 2018 off with a stimulating and thought-provoking event to fuel our thinking on the cumulative impacts of resource extraction and development. The UNBC Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), with support from the ECHO Network and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), convened the **2018 CIRC Forum: Cumulative impacts policy and practice in northern BC**. See page 3 for more information.
- We are recruiting for our next **Postdoctoral Fellow** – please see the job posting at <https://www.unbc.ca/46543/echo-network-postdoctoral-fellowship> for this exciting and unique opportunity. Please feel free to circulate widely!
- Our official **ECHO Network website** has launched! Check out the website at www.echonetwork-reseaecho.ca. The website will be updated quarterly and the design will be refined over time but if you have immediate feedback please feel free to send it to diana.kutzner@unbc.ca.
- Looking ahead to key network activities for 2018, core team members are currently in the process of planning of **knowledge to action workshops** informed by regional priorities and subsequent **learning and discovery workshops** across the ECHO Network. Stay tuned for updates on these opportunities for knowledge exchange and to learn about intersectoral tools and processes.
- Our ECHO working groups and teams are actively progressing ECHO research goals. Team Watersheds is going to try to meet in early April—please email Diana (diana.kutzner@unbc.ca) in case of questions.
- Our **2018 Annual Meeting** is taking place **July 29—Aug 1st, 2018**. Look out for further details in the events section of this update!
- Margot Parkes and Diana Kutzner recently attended a Tamarack Institute **Evaluation Masterclass** on March 16 in Vancouver—they look forward to feeding their newly gained knowledge about principles-focused evaluation into evaluation activities of ECHO Network Team Learning & Impact.



Take photos and share what you think

- * Take 3 digital photos around the following prompts

The big issue facing us today is:
It is a big issue because:
We need to face this issue/challenge
to help make our world look like this:



- * Tell us why you took the photos

- * Share your 3 photos and reflections with us

Please see the attached information for further guidelines and instructions,
or contact May at may.farrales@unbc.ca.

ECHO Network's arts-based and narrative inquiry in collaboration with the Health Arts Research Centre

Following the foundational establishment of our **ECHO Network Learning Community** we are excited that one of our Postdoctoral Fellows, May Farrales, is conducting an **ECHO Photovoice Activity** with Network Members.

Results from May's photovoice activity will fuel our next Annual Meeting. **Now is the time to submit your photos and reflections to May!**

Invitations were sent to ECHO Network Members in the beginning of March. For more information or in case of questions please contact May at may.farrales@unbc.ca.

ECHO preview: Upcoming meetings and events, involving or hosted by ECHO team members

We welcome team suggestions for future upcoming events and meetings. Please email ECHO Research Manager, Diana Kutzner at Diana.Kutzner@unbc.ca

- April 16–20, 2018** The Foundation for Environmental Conservation (FEC), East-West Center, and University of Hawai'i have planned the 7th International Conference on Environmental Future (7ICEF) that seeks to advance the global and multidisciplinary conversation around environmental futures with a specific focus in 2018 on 'Humans and Island Environments'. The conference will be held from the 16 – 20 April 2018 in Honolulu, Hawai'i, at the East-West Center's [Imin International Conference Center](#).
- July 29-Aug 1, 2018** The **ECHO Network Annual Meeting** will be hosted by the University of Alberta and the Battle River Watershed Alliance in Camrose, Alberta. The meeting will be an opportunity for active knowledge exchange and will be designed to advance important intersectoral linkages, actions, tools, and processes we have been progressing since the start of the ECHO Network launch, in May 2017. We look forward to hosting this event to help fuel the next phase of the ECHO Network. A registration form and travel arrangement details will be circulated. Travel and accommodations will need to be booked through contacts at UoFA. You should plan to arrive in Camrose on July 29th; the meeting is scheduled to end in the afternoon of Aug 1st. There are opportunities for ECHO related team meetings on the following day(s) between August 1st to August 4th. Please contact Diana Kutzner (diana.kutzner@unbc.ca) in case of questions.
- August 15-18, 2018** Some ECHO Network team members are looking ahead to the 7th biennial conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health in Cali Columbia; see also <http://ecohealth2018.co/>. Abstracts deadline is at the end of December 2017.
- April 7-11, 2019** This event in Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand, may be an opportunity for exchanges with Oceania ECHO groups: 23rd IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion "Waiora: Promoting Planetary Health and Sustainable Development for All". <http://www.iuhpe2019.com/>
- Summer 2019**
(dates tbc) The next ECHO Network Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Université de Moncton and NBEN in New Brunswick. Dates will be identified and announced as soon as possible.

Northern British Columbia Regional Case

On January 18-19, 2018, the UNBC Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), with support from the ECHO Network and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), convened the *2018 CIRC Forum: Cumulative impacts policy and practice in northern BC*. This event brought together over 100 people interested in the cumulative impacts of resource development and climate change throughout northern BC. In a public keynote address on January 18, Megan Leslie, President & CEO of World Wildlife Fund Canada, discussed cumulative impacts in the context of wildlife and habitat conservation. Throughout the day on January 19, sessions focused on a variety of topics, including cumulative effects assessment frameworks, Indigenous land use planning, watershed governance, impacts to health and wellbeing, and wildfires. We were also lucky enough to host a youth delegation, who facilitated an interactive discussion that challenged participants to reflect on how they could enable more meaningful youth participation in their ongoing work. Session recordings are available for viewing [here](https://www.unbc.ca/events/45388/2018-circ-forum-january-18-19-2018) or at <https://www.unbc.ca/events/45388/2018-circ-forum-january-18-19-2018>.



Panel Session: *Assessment of Cumulative Impacts on Health and Wellbeing* at the 2018 CIRC Forum. From left: Chris Buse, Sandra Harris, Barb Oke, Henry Harder.

We are also pleased to announce the release of reports from the Health Impacts of Resource Extraction and Development (HIRED) Project, a research collaboration between UNBC and Northern Health. This includes a Phase 1 Report (“**Towards a better understanding of health in relation to mining and oil & gas extraction: A scoping review**”) and a **Knowledge Synthesis Bibliography**. In addition, Northern Health and the BC Observatory for Population and Public Health recently released a report, “**The social determinants of health impacts of resource**

extraction and development:

A summary of impacts and promising practices for assessment and monitoring”.

All 3 reports are available on the [Office of Health and Resource Development](#) webpage.



Megan Leslie, President and CEO of the WWF responding to discussion questions by Art Fredeen following her keynote address at the 2018 CIRC Forum.

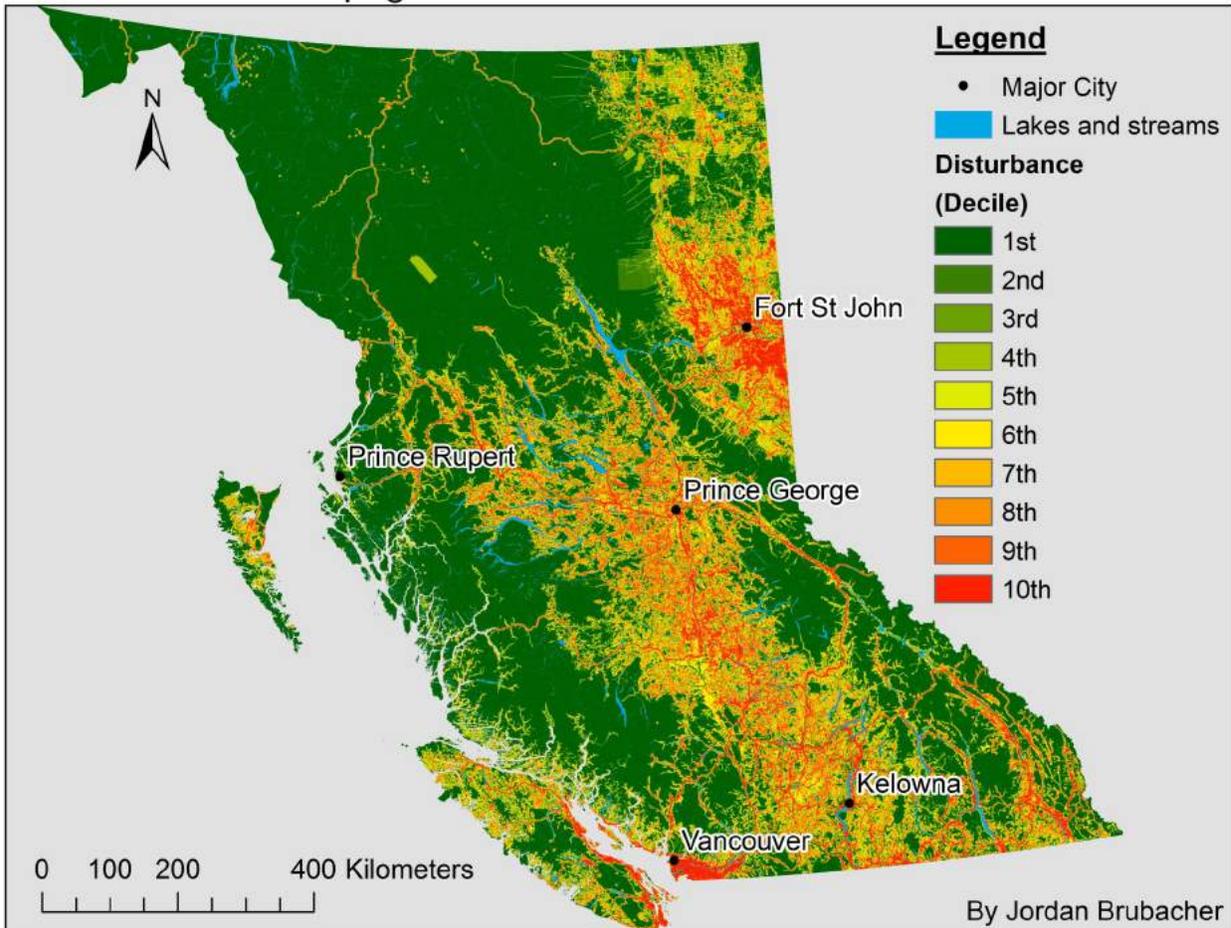
First Nations Health Authority Regional Case

FNHA Regional Case team members have had a busy start to 2018, including planning its engagement in the Gathering Our Voices event (March 20-23, 2018; www.gatheringourvoices.ca) and progressing Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network activities. In collaboration with team members of the regional case, Jordan Brubacher is continuing work on integrating multiple spatial datasets into a single and easy to read map describing the total physical human impact on the environment. The team is calling this cumulative impact “anthropogenic disturbance”. Such a map is helpful when trying to combine the large amount of spatial data describing human activities that has become available in recent years such as roads, forest cut blocks, mines and oil wells.

Ecological disturbance is associated with many ecosystem services that rural and remote communities are disproportionately dependent upon. The regional case has also begun exploring ways to describe and visualize associations between social determinants of health and anthropogenic disturbance. The final map will be made available for public use in the coming weeks via the UNBC Stewardship Portal.

The two SFU Co-leads of the regional case, Maya Gislason (PI) and Tim Takaro, are currently pursuing funding opportunities to bring together key researchers, decision makers and partners affiliated with the ECHO Network and the Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE) to further conversations regarding how to meaningfully apply an integrative health equity lens to complex social and environmental health issues, a key aspect of ECHO Network research.

Cummulative anthropogenic disturbance in British Columbia



Battle River Watershed Regional Case



Photos from the BRWA's "Finding Common Ground" documentary premiere. Filmmaker Alison Bortolon pictured in centre photo.

Climate change, energy options, riparian restoration, and community engagement have been central themes of the Battle River Watershed Alliance's work as 2018 begins.

In February, we hosted the world premiere of our "Finding Common Ground" documentary at the Daysland Palace Theatre. The documentary tells the story and key learnings of our fall 2017 bike tour, which explored the complex dynamics between energy options, climate change, and community resilience in the Battle River region of Alberta. The event was well attended and sparked great conversations. These conversations will continue, as we plan to host a number of other community and youth engagement events on the subject over the coming months.

In celebration of World Water Day, and as a wrap-up for our Ponoka Riparian Restoration Program, the BRWA is hosting an event on March 22 that will include information about native and invasive aquatic species, riparian health assessments, and on-the-ground stewardship actions that are supporting the health of land and water in the Ponoka region. We're also looking forward to hosting two Municipal Watershed Forums in April to meet with municipal staff and councillors from across the watershed and share information and ideas on our collective work of watershed education, stewardship, and management.

ECHO Network research assistant Dar Amsalu is currently developing a report that investigates common approaches to assessing the potential health impacts of drinking water contamination, particularly as it pertains to human cancer. This information will support future work with Alberta Health Services.

New Brunswick Environmental Network Regional Case

In January 2018, Annika Chiasson stepped in as the new Children's Environmental Health Collaborative Coordinator and regional coordinator for the New Brunswick case. Annika is also responsible for the NBEN's Watershed and Environmental Rights Caucuses.

In late December, the Government of New Brunswick released a Water Strategy for New Brunswick, along with recommendations for enhanced watershed management in New Brunswick, which was been developed by the Working Group on Watershed Management over the course of 9 months to provide the Minister of Environment with recommendations about preferred approaches for the management and protection of surface water quality. The Strategy was based on input from stakeholders, the public and First Nations and focuses on protecting drinking water, preserving and enhancing aquatic ecosystems, understanding and sharing knowledge about water, working co-operatively and reporting progress publicly.

Lastly, the NBEN is in the process of developing a Risks and Benefits interactive tool that will allow users to assess current or planned development projects based on risks and benefits associated with the project as well as who carries the risks and who benefits from the project. This will provide a platform for critical thinking and in-depth discussion of the impacts of resource development projects. It should be completed by summer.



Session participants at the CEHC Annual Conference, Nov 28th

Over the last three months, research assistant Wanzor Beaubrun has been progressing work on a literature review of narrative tools and on the planning of next steps and activities to apply one or two of these tools in the New Brunswick case.

ECHO Team Member Profiles

Postdoctoral Fellow: Ben Brisbois

Ben is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto. His PhD research at the University of British Columbia focused on preventing health effects due to pesticide exposure in Ecuador's banana industry. He is also involved in ongoing research projects on the health effects of climate change, and of resource extraction. He is carrying out knowledge synthesis work that bridges the ECHO project with the earlier Health Impacts of Resource Extraction and Development initiative, and is supporting knowledge synthesis and literature sharing activities of the ECHO team.



Research Associate: Maddy Wilson

Maddy Wilson is a Research Associate with the UNBC Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC). Maddy's research interests lie in human geography and political ecology. Her MA research focused on human-land relations and governance in Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. Through her work with CIRC, Maddy is increasingly interested in the relationships between resource extraction, poverty, and mental health. Within the ECHO Network, Maddy is actively working with the Northern BC Regional Case, and engaging more broadly with the Operations Committee and Research Trainee groups.

NBEN Regional Case Coordinator: Annika Chiasson

Annika has always had a keen interest in the environment. It was this interest that brought her to work for the New Brunswick Environmental Network, first as a summer student in 2012 and 2013, and later on a contract basis until becoming a permanent employee in 2017. In January 2018, she stepped in as the new Children's Environmental Health Collaborative Coordinator and regional coordinator for the New Brunswick case. Annika is also responsible for the NBEN's Watershed and Environmental Rights Caucuses. She is happy to be a part of the ECHO Network!



Publications led by, involving, or of interest to ECHO Network Members

We welcome team suggestions for publications of interest to include in our next update. Please email Diana.Kutzner@unbc.ca with suggestions.

Buse CG. (2018). Review of *Sustainability Planning and Collaboration in Rural Canada* by L. Hallstrom et al. *Canadian Geographer*, early access: doi: 10.1111/cag.12446

Buse, C., Oestreicher, J., Ellis, N., Partrick, R., Brisbois, B., Jenkins, A., McKellar, K., Kingsley, J., Gislason, M., Galway, L., McFarlane, R., Walker, J., Frumkin, H., & **Parkes, M.W** (2018). [Public health guide to field developments linking ecosystems, environments and health in the Anthropocene](#). *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. Doi: 10.1136/jech-2017-210082

Jenkins, A., Horwitz, P., & Arabena, K. (2018). My island home: Place-based integration of conservation and public health in Oceania. *Environmental Conservation*, 1-12. doi:10.1017/S0376892918000061. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/environmental-conservation/article/my-island-home-placebased-integration-of-conservation-and-public-health-in-oceania/5CC905DB8E6A9D5FF990F027687413FE>

Stewart-Harawira, M. and Kinder, J. B. (2018). *Resilient Systems, Resilient Communities*. University of Alberta and Kule Institute for Advanced Study. An open access copy of Resilient Systems, Resilient Communities can be found at <https://era.library.ualberta.ca/files/bgq67jr41j#.WrksMmbMyQ4>