

# {{ECHO}} Update

## Environment, Community, Health Observatory Network:

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



ECHO Network Members gathered on Sikniktuk, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq in Moncton, New Brunswick, in May 2019.

## Welcome to our ECHO Network Quarterly Update!

In this ECHO Network updated we share a few highlights of the 2019 ECHO Annual Meeting, exciting new project developments, and upcoming Network activities.

- The **2019 ECHO Network Annual Meeting (May 27-31)** saw many of our Network Members travelling to New Brunswick. At this meeting, Members were warmly welcomed to the territory by Mik'maq Elder, Donna Augustine, and the hosts, Céline Surette, Raissa Marks, and Annika Chiasson. The team shared work progressed to date and dug into the outcomes and tangible outputs they want to see from ECHO prior to the end of the project. Members clearly shared their desire for an increase in cross-Regional Case interactions and exchanges, faster turnaround on sharing of Network news, and an additional (but virtual) annual touchpoint. For further details and a full summary, keep an eye out for the forthcoming **2019 ECHO Network Annual Meeting Report**.
- Our official ECHO Network logo was unveiled at the 2019 Annual Meeting—keep an eye out for materials carrying this beautiful logo, created by Annika Chiasson with input from ECHO Network Members. The circle was created with a sound wave of saying “taking notice for action”. **Team Communications** has is continuing the development of a guide to inform ECHO Network communications, including the use of the logo.



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- Oceania Regional Case Member **Helen Moewaka Barnes** has been successful in obtaining a prestigious 5 year research program grant by the **New Zealand Health Research Council**. The grant is titled: “Tangata whenua tangata ora: investigating health gain through whenua initiatives” and led by Helen along with her team members. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2Ytknwx>.
- We are expanding our ECHO Network team and are seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow to contribute to the design and conduct of research and evaluation relating to the ECHO Network. See <https://www.echonetwork-reseaecho.ca/press> for the full call and apply

by Aug 11, 2019.

- In May, four ECHO Network Members participated in the ECHO-supported **COPEH-Canada Course**. This part online, part face-to-face graduate level course on ecosystem approaches to health is being offered at four “sites”: Montréal (UQAM), Guelph (University of Guelph), Prince George (University of Northern British Columbia) and an online “site”. Louisa Hadley, Christiana Onabola, Dionne Sanderson, and Diana Kutzner participated in this year’s course. The course offers international connections for the ECHO Network and trainees of ecosystem approaches to health to connect with one another and learn about potential career trajectories in this field.
- We are pleased to share exciting news from ECHO Network trainee **Christiana Onabola**, who has recently been awarded an **International Peace Scholarship** by the international Philanthropic Education Organization (P.E.O.). Congratulations Christiana! Go to <https://bit.ly/2M5PU0U> to read more about Christiana’s accomplishment.
- More exciting funding news—the Vancouver Foundation recently awarded a Systems Change Test grant led by Margot Parkes in collaboration with and supported by many northern BC partners, including UNBC, School District 91, the First Nations Education Council, the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, the Integrated Watershed Research Group, and the ECHO Network. The “**Koh-Learning in our Watersheds: Transforming learning in School District 91 by connecting students, waterways and communities**” project is already underway and is looking forward to a busy fall season with students across SD91 training to monitor streams in the Nechako watershed. You can read more at <https://bit.ly/2M3BZbX> or watch a stream monitoring video created by SD91 students at <https://bit.ly/2YUuuqn>. The Koh-learning partnership is closely linked to the ECHO Network but particularly through its youth engagement & Team Watersheds activities. The project has funding support from NSERC’s Promoscience Program and from the Vancouver Foundation’s System Change Granting Program, through until 2021.
- Joins us at the newly launched ECHO Network **Critical Reading Group** (see details in the meetings/events section below). Led by Ben Brisbois, this group emerged during discussions at the 2019 ECHO Network Annual Meeting. The purpose of the Critical Reading Group is to explore some of the ideas and kinds of readings that may fly under the radar during fast-moving work in the ECHO Network Regional Cases. These ideas and readings will likely have a somewhat social-scientific flavour, as this is where some of the most important – but neglected – ideas tend to be most thoroughly explored with respect to core ECHO themes of equity, power and human-non-human links (among others) in relation to resource extraction. To learn more or participate, please contact [ben.brisbois@gmail.com](mailto:ben.brisbois@gmail.com).

## Upcoming meetings and events involving or hosted by ECHO team members

We welcome team suggestions for future upcoming events and meetings. Please email us at [echonetnetwork@unbc.ca](mailto:echonetnetwork@unbc.ca)

Aug 9-10, 2019	<b>Planetary Health: Local and Global</b> , British Columbia Coalition Institute (BCCI); for more details see <a href="https://bcccoalitioninstitute.com/home/">https://bcccoalitioninstitute.com/home/</a> or contact <a href="mailto:echonetnetwork@unbc.ca">echonetnetwork@unbc.ca</a> .
Sept 4, 2019	<b>ECHO Network Critical Reading Group</b> online meeting; 1:30-3:00pm (ET)/10:30AM-noon (PT). the focus this time will be on 'beneficial' actions by resource extraction corporations. To learn more or participate, please contact <a href="mailto:ben.brisbois@gmail.com">ben.brisbois@gmail.com</a>
Sept 4-6, 2019	<b>2019 Planetary Health Annual Meeting</b> , Stanford University, California; see also <a href="https://planetaryhealthannualmeeting.org/">https://planetaryhealthannualmeeting.org/</a>
Sept 24-26, 2019	<b>12th OECD Rural Development Conference: Delivering Well-Being</b> , Seoul, Korea; see also <a href="https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/12th-oecd-rural-development-conference-delivering-well-being">https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/12th-oecd-rural-development-conference-delivering-well-being</a>
Oct 21, 2019	<b>30th Annual Palliative Education &amp; Research Days</b> , Edmonton, Alberta
June, 2010	<b>2020 ECHO Network Annual Meeting</b> , Prince George, British Columbia
Aug 25-27, 2020	<b>2020 World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference</b> , Winnipeg, Manitoba

## Publications / Webinars of Interest

Helpful webinars on ecosystem approaches to health—check out the COPEH-Canada Webalogues at <https://ecohealthkta.net/webalogues/>

Galway, Lindsay P., Thomas Beery, Kelsey Jones-Casey, and Kirsti Tasala. “Mapping the Solastalgia Literature: A Scoping Review Study.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 16 (July 25, 2019): 2662. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16152662>.

## FNHA/SFU Regional Case

Our case study enjoyed preparing and presenting at the ECHO Network Annual Meeting in Moncton, New Brunswick in late May. Our presentation took us on a journey, which started at the headwaters of a river, down different tributaries, and through eddies while learning about the importance of the Indigenous worldview of circular learning. The process of creating the presentation helped us to realize how far we have come as a case study but also that the journey has much more in store for us! To help us move forward on this journey, we are very excited to welcome two new members to our Regional Case team – Dawn Hoogeveen and Katie Bauder!

The First Nations Health Authority is in the process of developing a climate change and health adaptation program and a few tools are being explored to potentially be included in the program. A fruitful first discussion occurred between UNBC and FNHA to discuss the [UNBC Geospatial Archive Portal](#) and how it may be further utilized as a tool for BC First Nations communities. Several BC First Nations are already successfully using the portal, which is an open source software tool.

FNHA's approach to climate change and health adaptation focuses on building community capacity and using community driven approaches. The availability of affordable and meaningful tools is vital for the success of any community-based project. Together with appropriate promotional materials and training, both the [Local Environmental Observer \(LEO\) Network](#) and the cumulative anthropogenic impacts map can potentially become useful climate change mapping tools for BC First Nations communities.



*Dionne Sanderson and Jordan Brubacher presenting at the 2019 ECHO Annual Meeting in Moncton, New Brunswick*

## NBEN/UdeM Regional Case

First off, we would like to thank everyone who attended the 2019 ECHO Annual Meeting in Moncton! It was fantastic being able to share what makes New Brunswick unique with all of you.

The time following the annual meeting has been fairly quiet as summer tends to be in the New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN) office. However, in June, the NBEN organized a tour of different industries in Belledune, a village in northern New Brunswick. This tour was done in collaboration with the Rural Action and Voices for the Environment (RAVEN) and Production Aulnes. We visited the Belledune Thermal Station, a coal burning plant, the Chaleur Sawmills, and the Port of Belledune. This was followed by a community event in which participants were invited to imagine their ideal Belledune.

We are in the very initial stages of planning meetings and conferences for the fall. More to follow soon!



*NBEN and RAVEN members at the Belledune Thermal Station, NB*

## NH/UNBC Regional Case

This spring, the Northern BC regional case hosted their first Learning and Impact Workshop on materials and processes for communicating with community and agency decision makers. The team is continuing to advance their work on developing knowledge translation materials. CIRC hosted a series of presentations in the Northern Rockies, Peace River, and Bulkley Nechako regions in June to report on the findings from a three-year research project to provide new, integrative tools and processes that measure environmental, community, and health values to take action on the cumulative impacts of resource development across northern BC.

Northern Health is very excited to welcome Dr. Raina Fumerton back from maternity leave! We have been busy engaging with LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink on health services planning and social and environmental health management processes as the projects begin early construction activities. We have also been supporting Environmental Assessments for several mining and oil and gas projects and associated management plans. This spring, Barb Oke and Iridia Medical co-presented at the Minerals North conference in Chetwynd on leading practices for health services delivery in mining camps. Northern Health also presented as part of the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Seminar Series on impacts of resource development to social determinants of health; the webinar recording is available here: <http://www.nceh.ca/content/paradox-wealth-and-health-resource-development-and-social-determinants-health-0>. An accompanying blog post is available at: <http://www.nceh.ca/content/paradox-wealth-and-health-resource-development-and-social-determinants-health>.

The BC Centre for Disease Control organized a Practical Wildfire Smoke Preparedness Workshop in Prince George on May 28th. There was a successful turnout from a number of agencies and organizations, including Northern Health and the FNHA. The BCCDC has updated their public facing wildfire smoke web page and developed a series of fact sheets regarding wildfire smoke and health. See <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke>. The BC Lung Association has released their 2019 State of the Air Report which features information regarding volatile organic compounds, low cost air quality sensors and citizen science, wildfire smoke, and air quality trends across the province. Work continues for air quality roundtables throughout the north (Bulkley Valley Lakes District, Quesnel, and Prince George) and new work is happening with the Valemount Clean Air Task Force to address higher levels of particulate matter in their community during the winter.



View from the Boulder Gardens trail of the Trend-Roman Peace River Coal Mine near Tumbler Ridge, BC (photo by Melissa Aalhus)

## BRWA/UofA Regional Case

This spring and summer, the Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) partnered with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) on two education and stewardship events. AWES is a non-profit organization with the mission to increase awareness of the economic, social, and environmental values of agroforestry and woodlots in agricultural landscapes. The first event involved working with a landowner who was interested in restoring native plant cover along a stretch of Bigstone Creek, which is located near the headwaters of the Battle River watershed. In May, AWES, BRWA, and a crew of Junior Forest Wardens joined forces to plant around 1,000 native trees and shrubs along the creek. The second event was a workshop about designing and establishing shelterbelts and eco-buffers. Landowners participated in practical hands-on learning about how to conduct a tree planting site assessment and design their own shelterbelt and eco-buffer projects.

In recent months, the BRWA has also been working with the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association to build relationships with the four Maskwacis Cree Nations located in the watershed. We hope to learn more about their priorities for watershed education, stewardship, and management in the Pigeon Lake watershed. The Mamawo Mimiw Saskatchewan Working Group was formed to guide these discussions, and includes representation from all four Nations. Community surveys and conversations over the coming months will support the creation of a shared vision for how we can work together to improve the health of the Pigeon Lake watershed and its people and communities.

The BRWA is also gearing up for round two of our Finding Common Ground Tour, to continue exploring current energy systems and future opportunities across the watershed. Check out the upcoming events section of this newsletter for more information!



*Workshop participants learn about shelterbelts and eco-buffers through hands-on experience.*



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*We welcome your suggestions for content you would like us to include in future ECHO Network Updates.*

*Email us at [echonetwork@unbc.ca](mailto:echonetwork@unbc.ca).*