

MEET THE MODERATOR AND SPEAKERS

MODERATOR

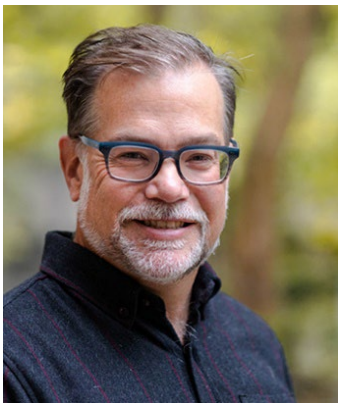


**Leanne Sawatzky (she/her), Executive Director (Interim), Renewable Cities, SFU's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue**

**Attending the Surrey, Vancouver and Webinar Sessions**

Leanne has 15+ years of experience dedicated to enhancing wellbeing, livability, and resilience of communities locally and internationally. Leanne seeks to bring warmth and curiosity to her leadership, alongside a deep commitment to systems-thinking, dialogue and collaboration for robust and durable solutions. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Global Resource Systems and a Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation.

PANEL SPEAKERS



**Chris McLeod (he/him), Director, Partnership for Work, Health, and Safety, Associate Professor and Head of the Occupational and Environmental Health Division, UBC School of Population and Public Health**

**Attending the Surrey, Vancouver and Webinar Sessions**

Dr Chris McLeod is the Director of the Partnership for Work, Health and Safety and Associate Professor and Head of the Occupational and Environmental Health Division in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of BC. His research focuses on the evaluation of occupational health policies and practices and on the causes and consequences of work-related injury and disease. For example, his current areas of research include assessment of the effectiveness of occupational health and safety management systems on preventing work injury and investigation of work and health outcomes for vulnerable workers, including workers in heat-affected environments, workers in precarious jobs, and workers with mental health conditions.



**Laurie Bates-Frymel (she/her), Senior Environmental Planner, Regional Planning and Housing Services, Metro Vancouver**

**Attending the Surrey, Vancouver and Webinar Sessions**

Laurie Bates-Frymel is a Senior Environmental Planner with Metro Vancouver's Regional Planning and Housing Department. For the first 20 years of her career, Laurie specialized in outdoor air quality analysis and planning. More recently, her work has involved developing regional ecological health policy and best practice guidance in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, academia, and other partners.



**Michelle Hoar (she/her), Project Director, Hey Neighbor Collective**

**Attending the Surrey and Vancouver Sessions**

Michelle is a Fellow at the SFU Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue and the Project Director for Hey Neighbour Collective. Since 2019, Hey Neighbour has been bringing together housing providers, non-profits, researchers, local and regional governments, housing associations and health authorities to experiment with and learn about ways of building community, social connectedness and resilience in BC's fast-growing multi-unit housing communities. She is also the co-founder of The Tyee, where she led the business operations of one of Canada's most highly regarded independent media companies from 2003 through 2016. She is the mother of two teenaged daughters, a renter since age 19, an avid community gardener and cyclist, and one of her favorite hobbies is talking to strangers.



**Amy Lubik (she/her), Climate Change and Planetary Health Lead, Population and Public Health, Fraser Health Authority**

**Attending the Surrey Session**

As a Climate Change and Planetary Health Lead, Amy specializes in researching and sharing information on the health impacts of climate change, from heat, to wildfire, smoke, and increasingly extreme winter weather, as well as understanding barriers that people face to taking action. climate change adaptation/ resilience for communities and health. She has a particular focus on equity considerations and working with partners, including local and Indigenous governments and NGOs, to understand community needs and build resilience. She has previously worked at the BCCDC on the impact of the built environment on mental well-being and climate resilience. Prior to transitioning to public health, Amy received her Ph.D. in Prostate Cancer Research from Queensland University of Technology.



**Melissa Lem (she/her), MD, CCFP, FCFP, President, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and Clinical Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine**

**Attending the Vancouver Session**

Dr. Melissa Lem is a Vancouver family physician who also works in rural and northern communities. President of the [Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment](#) and Director of [PaRx](#), Canada's national nature prescription program powered by the BC Parks Foundation, she is an internationally recognized leader in the field of nature and health. She has also engaged in advocacy and policy work on a broad range of issues, from healthy buildings and hydraulic fracturing to sustainable health care and low-carbon transportation. As a widely published writer, climate change panelist on CBC Radio's Early Edition, in-house medical columnist for CBC TV Vancouver, and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia, one of her major priorities is knowledge translation. Dr. Lem was the inaugural winner of University College's Young Alumni of Influence Award at the University of Toronto, recipient of the 2024 Canadian Eco-Hero Award, 2024 YWCA Women of Distinction Award and 2022 Adult Nature Inspiration Award from the Canadian Museum of Nature, and sits on the Advisory Committee of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Health and Well-being Specialist Group.



**Sarah Henderson (she/her), Scientific Director, Environmental Health Services, BC Centre for Disease Control**

**Attending the Webinar Session**

Dr. Sarah Henderson is the Scientific Director of Environmental Health Services at the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Scientific Director of the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH). She is also a Professor at the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Henderson oversees a broad program of applied research, surveillance, knowledge translation, and training to support evidence-based environmental health policy and practice in BC and across Canada. She has been studying the population health effects of climate change for more than 20 years.