

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors BC Branch Continuing Education Fall Webinar Series 2014

Linking Planning and Health

December 4, 2014 from 13:30 - 15:30 (PST)

Research links public health outcomes to the built environment. Traditionally public health programs have tended to emphasize legislative responsibilities such as drinking water protection, air quality or waste management. Yet the beneficial long-term outcomes of improving the built environment are often affected more by non-mandated aspects of a public health agency's role. BC health authorities have recognized the importance of partnering and collaborating with local governments to encourage health considerations into planning decisions to address a broad range of policies and services that focus on the social, economic, environmental and physical aspect of communities. Two health authorities will share their experiences of how Environmental Health Officers have been involved with local governments to apply the scientific evidence which speaks to the strong link that the built environment has on a health on the community.



Pam Moore,
Healthy Built Environment Team,
Interior Health Authority

Pam is a member of Interior Health's, Healthy Built Environment (HBE) Team since 2007 and works with local governments to include healthy public policy within their land-use practices and patterns. This includes review and participation in land-use planning such as: Official Community Plans, Regional Growth Strategies, and Master Plans, bylaws or site specific development. The goal is developing collaborative partnerships with local governments to improve the built environment that will create the beneficial long-term outcomes of reductions in the prevalence of chronic diseases and injuries, and improved physical, mental and social health.



Claire Gram,
Policy Consultant and
Healthy Built Environment Lead,
Vancouver Coastal Health

Claire is a professional planner who has worked for VCH in community development and population health for over 15 years. For many years she worked as a community developer in Vancouver building partnerships with community organizations, local governments and our health services.

In 2006, she started work in the newly formed Population Health Team where she was responsible for overseeing the portfolios of food security and healthy communities. At that point there was very little being done in the built environment field in this province (and elsewhere) but the BC Healthy Built Environment Alliance was formed and provided the backbone to much of the emerging work. The work got a further boost with the creation of the Healthy Families BC Communities initiative. For Claire this was a great way to link back to her Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning. Since then, she has had the remarkable opportunity to also participate in the National Healthy Canada by Design collaborative and learn and share with public health agencies, planners and transportation engineers across the country as well as work with many of the local governments in her health authority.

Last May, Claire moved into a new position within VCH, jointly reporting to Health Protection and Population health and building a new healthy built environment team.