

British Columbia Coalition Institute

Climate Justice: Learning
from the Pandemic

2021

Final Report



CCGHR
Canadian Coalition for
Global Health Research

CCRSM
Coalition canadienne pour la
recherche en santé mondiale

Presented by The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research



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BCCI Co-chairs

Thank you to our contributors.

This report was prepared on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

Thank you to our sponsors:

We thank our donors for their generous support of the third British Columbia Coalition Institute.





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Letter from our chairs

Dear Coalition members,

This third British Columbia Coalition Institute (BCCI-3) represents a significant departure from its predecessors in 2017 and 2019. Of course, the main reason for the change is the COVID pandemic. This influenced both the structure and the emphasis of BCCI-3 as reflected in the theme: Climate Justice: Learning from the Pandemic.

Throughout most of 2021, a dedicated planning team has been developing both the structure and the content of BCCI-3. The structure is represented in three phases:

- a Preparation Phase (May to September);
- a two-day symposium (October 1st and 2nd);
- an ongoing Community of Practice (CoP) (October '21 to June '22).

Key features of the content included the creation of self-organizing partnerships across universities and research networks throughout BC. These partnerships consisted of a direct focus on working with local community groups (including youth) and on strengthening collaborations among groups with climate change interests at a given university and community (for example, a municipality). These partnerships came to be called “learning hubs”.

By the time of the symposium in early October, there were seven learning hubs across the province. The symposium itself was conducted mostly as a virtual event, with a few local groups meeting in person. An important theme that emerged throughout the pre-symposium planning process and reinforced during the symposium was the importance of synergy and harmonization. On the first day, we were pleased to hear an inspiring discussion about intergenerational equity and climate from Maya Gislason (Simon Fraser University) and to welcome special guests from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, particularly Arleigh Reynolds. Day two featured an insightful challenge from Mira Ziolo (University of Victoria), who wove a holistic picture of animal, planetary, and human equity together. Workshops focused on how to incorporate synergy, harmony, and equity in our daily practices. The day's conversations wrapped up with observations and future-facing remarks by Jerry Spiegel of the University of British Columbia.

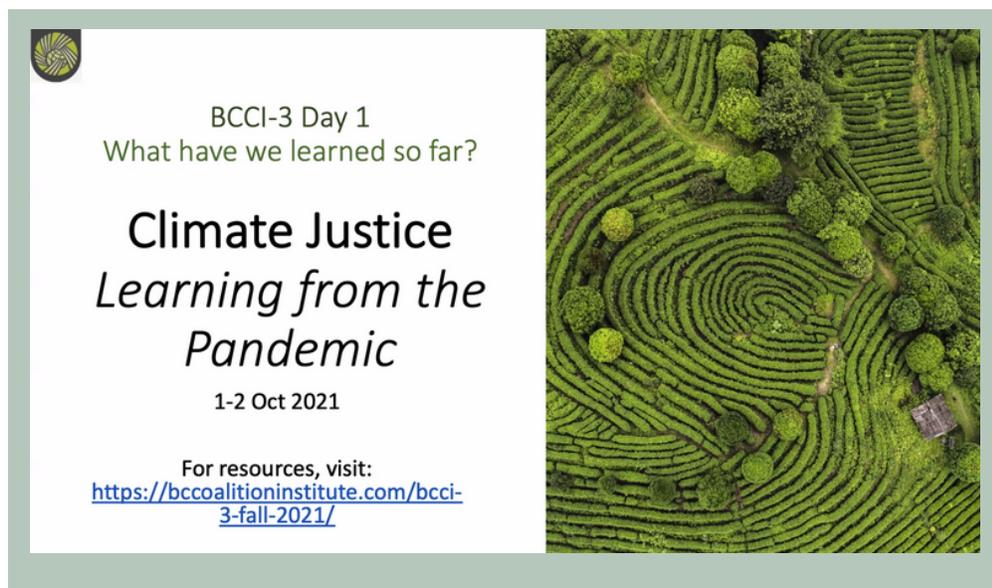
At the time of writing this report, the third phase has already begun, with leadership from a working group tasked with designing 9-month CoP program to take us through the 2021/22 academic year. This will include regular events (workshops and webinars), a strategic planning and synergy mapping event, expansion of our resource library, strengthened support for capacities (such as university courses), community engagement activities and advocacy initiatives, along with ongoing support of the learning hubs. Members of the CoP commit to ongoing attention to synergy opportunities.

Special thanks to our planning team members for their commitment, guidance and role-modeling throughout the adventure so far. Thanks also to both Tasha-Aliya Kara and Leigh Borrett, our BCCI-3 coordinators, for their support and initiative throughout the whole time.

Dr. Katrina Plamondon and Dr. Vic Neufeld, BCCI Co-chairs

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the 2021 British Columbia Coalition Institute entitled "Climate Justice - learning from the Pandemic". This report can be used to inform future institute planning, funding, and policy decisions. While this report has a strong focus on what was accomplished in BCCI-3, it also aims to provide further understanding of the Community of Practice, and the vision for the group moving forward.



BACKGROUND

Established in 2003, the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) is a knowledge network promoting equity in health worldwide. It is a member-based, non-profit organization representing global health students, researchers, and practitioners at institutions and non governmental organizations across Canada and globally. Mid 2021 the CCGHR and CSHI merged into the Canadian Association for Global Health (CAGH).

The British Columbia Coalition Institute (BCCI), an innovative more localized model, is a collaborative project involving several universities, all of whom are CAGH institutional members. The annual institutes provide a platform for the sharing and exchanging of knowledge localized to British Columbia (BC), tackling large scale global health problems. These institutes are made up of three phases:

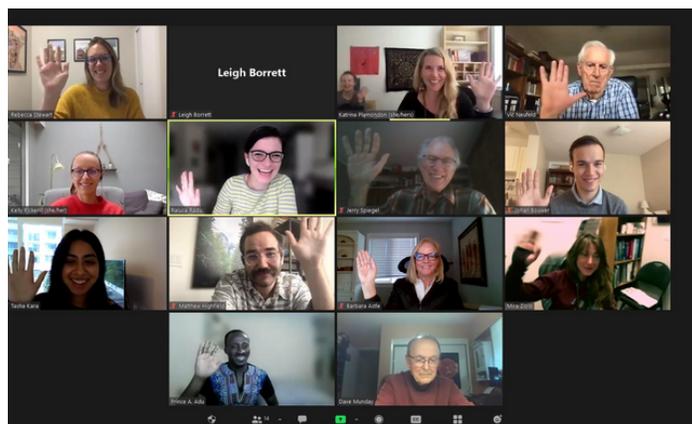
1. The first is preparation and planning phase which extends over several weeks.
2. The second phase involves ideally a three-day on-site event, hosted by the participating university that consists of workshops, panels, and open sessions. This year, due to COVID-19, our event was held through a combination of in person and virtual events.
3. The BCCI extends to a follow-up phase that includes capacity strengthening activities in the participating universities and regionally that evolve into the BC Global Health Research Community of Practice, a regional network born out of the BCCI.



The phases in the 2021 institute, BCCI-3, given the COVID-19 contexts, were slightly different and resulted in the following phases:

PHASE 1

Phase 1 included intensive preparation extending over several weeks leading up to an online symposium. Geographical learning hubs were developed to focus efforts on localized projects.



PHASE 2

Phase 2 included a two-day online/in-person hybrid event consisting of workshops, panels and open sessions focusing on participants' self directed learning objectives. The major theme of cultivating resilience "Climate Justice: Learning from the Pandemic" was threaded throughout the program between October, 1st and 2nd.



A major focus throughout the two days was synergizing and harmonizing our efforts towards climate justice. These activities took place through various presentations from our academic and industry partners (page 5) and various workshops and open sessions as shown in our schedule (page 4).

Climate Justice: Learning from the Pandemic Symposium Schedule

FRIDAY OCT 1

- 9:00-9:30 AM Welcome, morning gathering & checking-in
- 9:30-10:00 AM Keynote: *Reflections on Climate Justice*
Dr. Maya Gislason
- 10:00-11:00 AM Learning Hub Updates
- 11:00-12:00 PM Workshop: What does it mean to synergize and harmonize?
with Dr. Plamondon and Dr. Neufeld
- 12:00-2:30 PM Lunch & Action Planning
- 2:30-3:30 PM Wrap up Session
Dr. Arleigh Reynolds, U of Alaska, guest commentator

SATURDAY OCT 2

- 9:00-9:30 AM Welcome, morning gathering & checking
- 9:30-10:00 AM Keynote: Dr. Mira Ziola - Climate Change and Animal Health:
Equity Perspectives
- 10:00-11:00 AM Workshop: *Katrina Plamondon*
- 11:00-11:30 PM Discussion: Bringing it all together
- 11:30-2:00 PM Lunch & Action Planning
- 2:00-2:30 PM Debrief, response and updates from learning hubs
- 2:30-3:30 PM Closing Comments & Reflections by Dr. Jerry Spiegel



PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

MAYA GISLASON

Maya Gislason, an Associate Professor at SFU, provided an opening presentation on Day 1 on the theme: Reflections on Climate Justice. She spoke about several justice movements such as indigenous, racial, inter-generational, gender and economic (policy), and emphasized the need for integration across these movements. She highlighted a growing global awareness of how children are affected, as described in a recent WHO-UNICEF-Lancet report: A future for the world's children.

DR. MIRA ZIOLA

Mira Ziolo is a consulting wildlife veterinarian, and a doctoral candidate in UBC's Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Program. Based on her special interest in resilience and adaptability at the wildlife-human interfaces, Mira presented a challenging overview entitled: Climate Change: Animal Health and Equity Perspectives. Included were stories from her own recent experiences in southern Vancouver Island.

WORKSHOP: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SYNERGIZE AND HARMONIZE

Facilitated by Katrina Plamondon and Vic Neufeld, this workshop was a response to pre-symposium discussions involving planning team members about the need to find ways to more effectively work together. The workshop explored the mutual benefit of synergizing and harmonizing. The learning hub members present used a visual tool to map their efforts, and were challenged to integrate equity and power considerations in the what and how of collaborative efforts.



Community of Practice

PHASE 3

Phase 3, the follow up phase, has evolved into the BC Global Health Research Community of Practice, a regional network born out of the BCCI. This year, the Community of Practice was further discussed in BCCI-3 as the members defined how this community, and tool can help to progress our work in climate justice. When asked what the term CoP means to our members at the 2021 BCCI Coalition Institute, they said:

"IT IS A SAFE SPACE WHERE WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN OUR BLIND SPOTS"

"IT EXPANDS OUTSIDE OF THE MEMBERSHIP MEANING THAT WE EMBODY WHAT WE LEARN IN THE COP IN ASPECTS OF PROFESSIONAL WORK"

"A COP MEANS MOVING FORWARD IN WAYS THAT ARE CONNECTED TOGETHER AND IDENTIFYING WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE COLLECTIVELY"

"IT'S A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH A SHARED INTEREST WITH A COMMON AGENDA, WORKING TOWARDS COMMON GOAL"

"IT MEANS A SENSE OF BELONGING"

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

A Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and actively learn by exchanging knowledge to ultimately improve practice. Our members are part of a diverse CoP and are committed to evolving global health research as a model and driver of collaboration, partnership, and equity in the creation, co-production, and translation of knowledge. Typically, CoPs are organized and defined by three aspects: domain, community, and practice.



WHAT IS THE BC GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

WHAT GUIDES OUR LEARNING?

- **Domain:** Global and planetary health

WHO MAKES UP OUR COMMUNITY?

- **Community:** Diverse and aspiring researchers, students, faculty, and active practitioners

HOW ARE WE PRACTICING?

- Workshops and presentations
- Creating opportunities for early career researchers
- Collaborating on research and publications
- Using an online platform that support real-time conversation
- Working with local partners to engage community through learning hubs

WHY WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

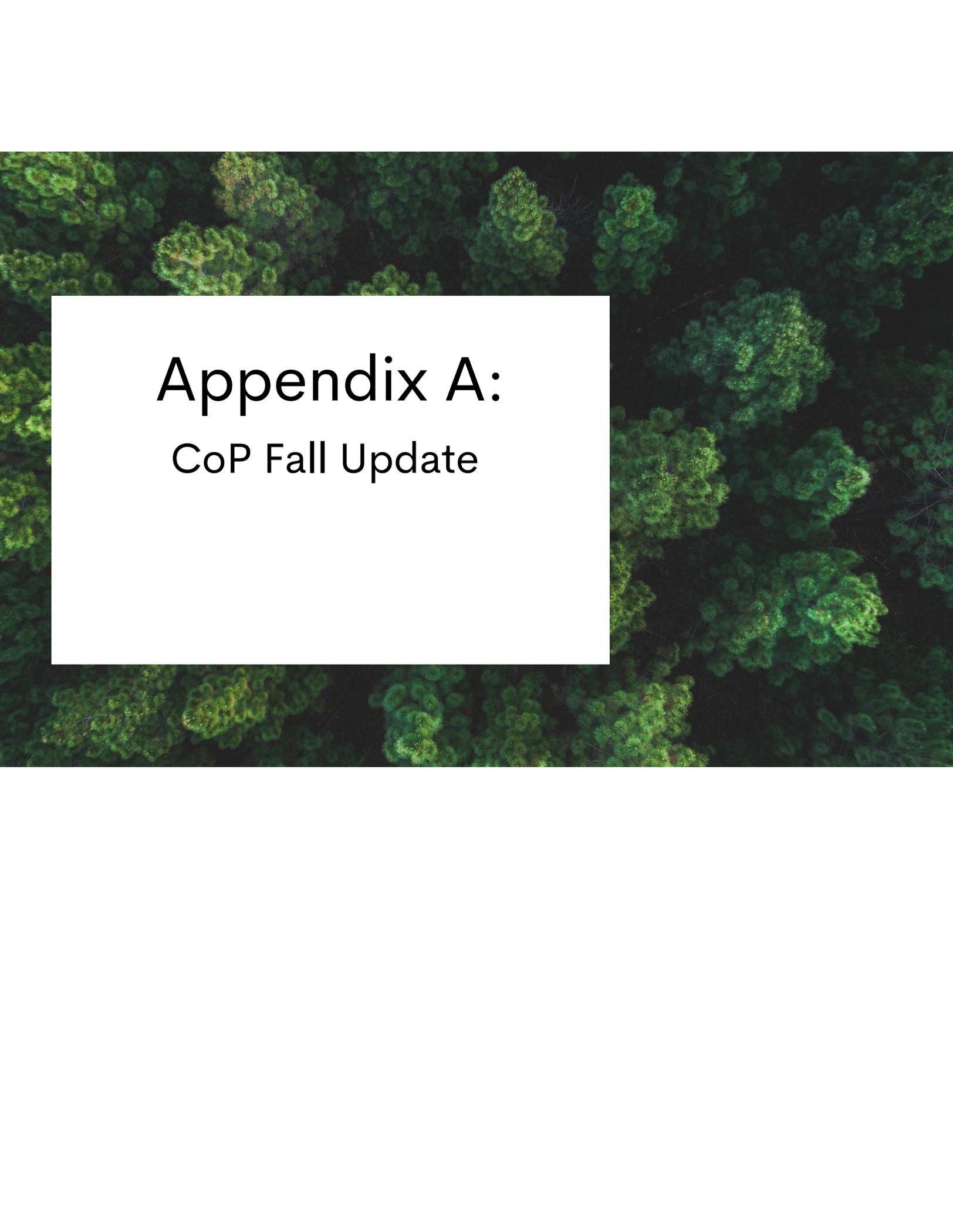
- The purpose of a CoP is to provide a way for researchers and practitioners to share tips and best practices, ask questions of their colleagues, and provide support for each other
- This model ultimately helps to solve silos which can often be the case for global health research.
- Knowledge is only power when it is shared with others



CLOSING REMARKS & CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to engage with BCCI Community. As participants in the BCCI network have now entered into its “Phase 3” activities— the BCCI-CoP is in the process of designing a more specific work plan, carrying on from the October 1-2 symposium and extending through to mid-2022. As the implementation of this plan proceeds, highlights will be described in periodic updates, and in the website. <https://bcccoalitioninstitute.com/resourcelibrary/>

For further information on our updates, please contact the BCCI Community at bcci.community@gmail.com or Leigh Borrett at leigh.borrett@ubc.ca

An aerial photograph of a dense forest of green trees, likely pines or firs, filling the background. The trees are viewed from above, showing their canopy and some bare branches. The colors range from bright green to dark green, with some shadows between the trees.

Appendix A:

CoP Fall Update

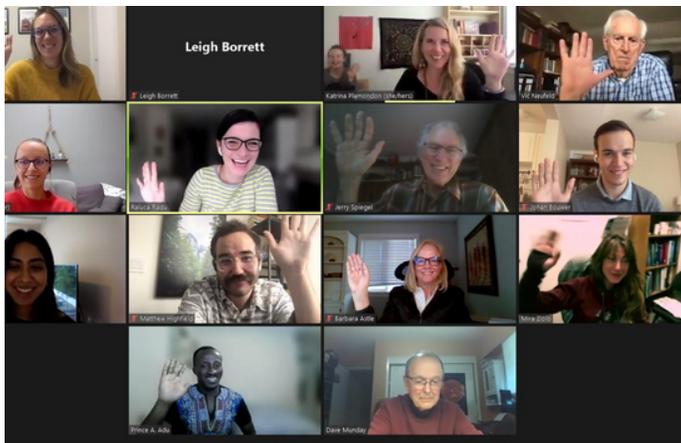
BCCI-COP UPDATE

Update from the British Columbia Coalition Institute

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE!

A Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of individuals who share a concern or a passion for something they do and actively learn by exchanging knowledge to ultimately improve practice. Our members are part of a diverse CoP and are **committed to evolving global health research as a model and driver of collaboration, partnership, and equity in the creation, co-production, and translation of knowledge.** Welcome!

Our monthly update will act as a platform to share thoughts, reach out for collaborations and hear about upcoming events. We are always accepting feedback, comments and contributions. If you're new to the BCCI, feel free to learn more about what we do [here!](#)



Thank you to all members that participated in the **BCCI-3 Symposium**, we're looking forward with excitement to the next 8 months as we develop the Community of Practice. Our post event report will be circulated shortly.

More information on BCCI-3 can be found [here.](#)

COMMUNITY CORNER & BLOGS

[NNPBC Blog -Climate Emergency: The Time to Act is Now](#)

[Climate and health are interrelated – it might not be so obvious how](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

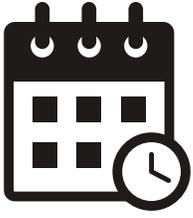
New Videos Added! [CAGH Youtube Channel](#)

New Resources! [2021 Summer Knowledge Translation Course](#)
[Case Study Reports](#)

New! [Community of Practice Page](#)



Canadian Association
for Global Health
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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13

End of year BCCI celebration

including a conversation about COP26 with David Zakus

We think it's time for a light-hearted end-of-year celebration. This virtual gathering will act as a reflection on what we (as the global health research community in Canada) have learned, and how we fit into the "bigger scene" such as the COP26 event and its follow-up.

5PM PST. More information coming soon.

Additional Event Resources

CODE RED FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

PREPARED BY VIC NEUFELD.

For the last six years, an international collaboration called the Lancet Countdown produces an annual report on health and climate change. The 2021 edition has just been released by the Lancet, with a subtitle: "code read for a healthy future". This year's report is particularly timely in that it appears just before the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 26th "Conference of the Parties" in Glasgow (COP26). This comprehensive 44-page report can be [accessed online](#).

Complimenting this major report, an 8-page "Policy Brief for Canada" with a subtitle: "Health impacts of climate crisis hit home" was prepared by a Countdown working group (that includes Chris Buse). This brief, with its key messages and recommendations for Canada is [attached here](#).

We strongly recommend both reports to our BCCI-CoP colleagues as "required reading".

ECHO NETWORK

The "Environment, Community, Health Observatory (ECHO) Network: Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to the health impacts of resource development" is a 5-year research program, focused on working together across sectors to take notice of- and respond to- the influence of resource development on health and well-being, with specific emphasis on rural, remote and Indigenous communities and environments.

COPEH-Canada Events: Discover innovative and dynamic approaches for better understanding the multiple factors which influence health - ecosystem approaches to health - with an experienced, pan-Canadian team.

CAHR Policy Dialogue CAHR fosters collaboration and co-operation among HIV research communities, including basic, clinical and social sciences, epidemiology and public health.

Interested in contributing to our quarterly update?
Please reach out to bccicommunity@gmail.com

An aerial photograph of a dense forest of green trees, likely pines, filling the background. The trees are seen from above, showing their canopy and some bare branches. The colors range from bright green to dark green, with some shadows between the trees.

Appendix B:

BCCI-3 Press Release

BCCI-3 features Climate Justice

October 14, 2021 – Press Release

The BC Coalition Institute (BCCI) is an informal network that was launched in Kelowna at a 4-day event in 2017, followed by a similar event (BCCI-2) two years later in Victoria. The theme of BCCI-2 was “Planetary Health: Local and Global”. Linking these two events is an ongoing “Community of Practice” (CoP) to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration.



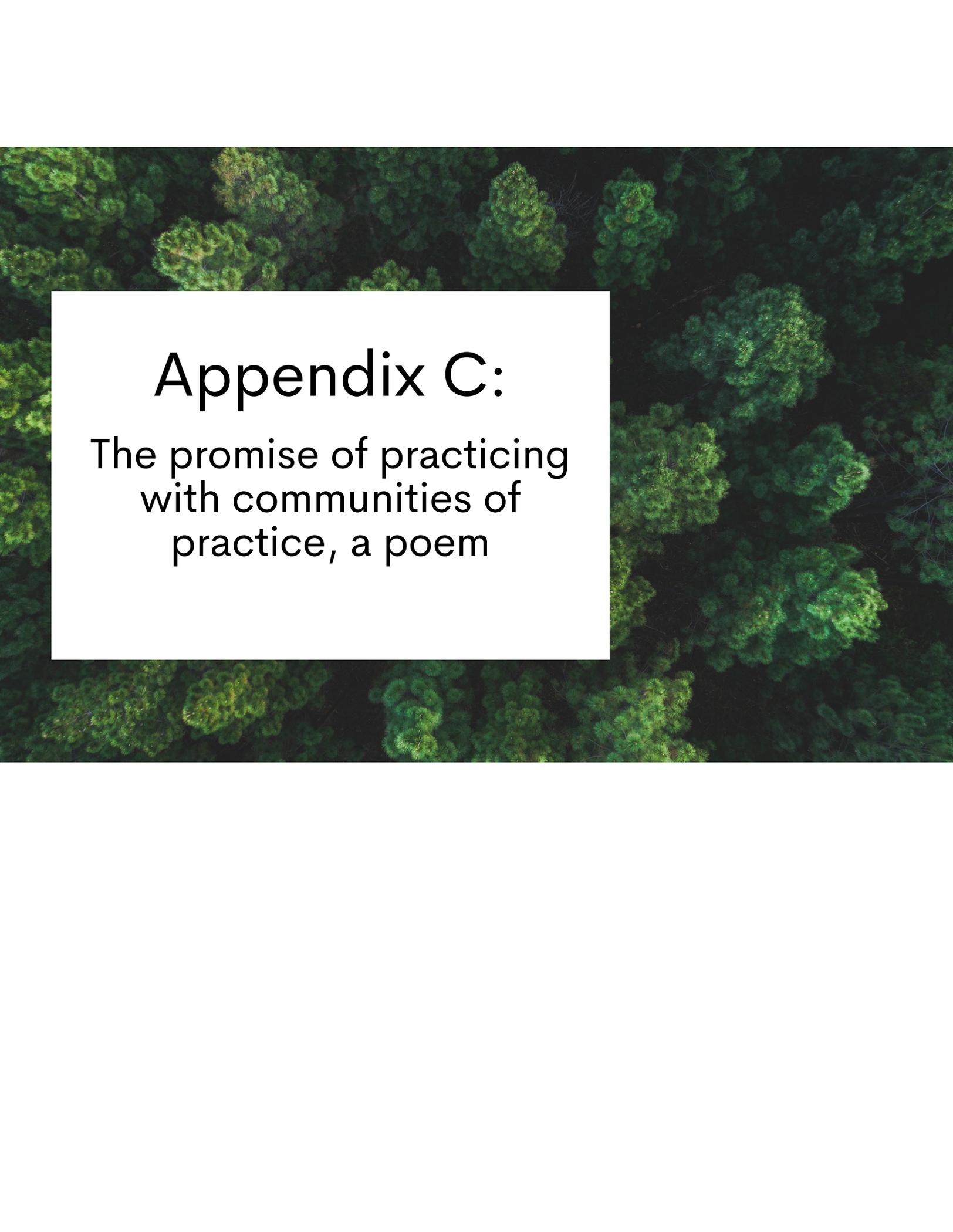
Because of COVID during 2021, BCCI-3 had a different structure, consisting of three components:

- a Preparation Phase (May to September)
- a two-day symposium (October 1st and 2nd)
- an ongoing Community of Practice (October '21 to June '22)

During the preparation phase, self-organizing partnerships across universities and research networks were developed throughout the province. These partnerships featured a direct focus on working with local community groups (including youth) and on strengthening collaboration among groups with climate change interests at a given university and community. These local efforts were supported by province-wide virtual engagement events. The overall goal was to stimulate applied learning in response to knowledge-to-action opportunities. Over time, these partnerships came to be called “learning hubs”.

By the time of the symposium in early October, there were six or seven learning hubs across the province, involving five or more individuals in each hub. Most of the symposium activities were virtual with a few local in-person gatherings. The symposium was entitled Climate Justice: Learning from the Pandemic and events included keynote presentations, a workshop on “Synergizing and Harmonizing”, presentations by learning hubs, and “space” for optional activities such as going for walks in the outdoors. On the first day, we were pleased to hear an inspiring discussion about intergenerational equity and climate from Maya Gislason (Simon Fraser University) and to welcome special guests from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, particularly Arleigh Reynolds. Day two featured an insightful challenge from Mira Ziolo (University of British Columbia), who wove a holistic picture of animal, planetary, and human equity together. Workshops focused on how to incorporate synergy, harmony, and equity in our daily practices. The day’s conversations wrapped up with observations and future-facing remarks by Jerry Spiegel of the University of British Columbia.

As a next step, a working group will meet to design the upcoming 9-month CoP plan in more detail. The components will include regular events (webinars and workshops), an expanded resource library, strengthened support for capacity building (such as university courses), community engagement activities, and advocacy initiatives. All components will be specially attuned to synergy opportunities.

An aerial photograph of a dense forest of green trees, likely pines or firs, filling the entire background. The trees are seen from above, showing their canopy and some bare branches. The lighting is natural, with some areas appearing brighter than others, suggesting sunlight filtering through the canopy.

Appendix C:

The promise of practicing
with communities of
practice, a poem

the promise of practicing with communities of practice

Katrina Plamondon

The following poem was written by analyzing data from three different qualitative studies about communities of practice.

The green text are direct texts, these stanzas reflect the major themes and results of the CoPs.

Katrina Plamondon, September 2012

Poetic Interpretation (Burgess & Sawchenko, 2009; Mendel, 2011; Plamondon et al., 2012 in progress)

I am wandering through a garden
looking for metaphors

maybe it is like snow
or silk-
single amazing strands of something
organic
touched by many hands
woven into something new

maybe it is all about
Place,
I realize. The promise is in
the place.

Netsunagari means
root connected
**Place is who and what I am,
where I am**
who and what and where
we are
A Moment

**we could have been swallowed up
in our own places** of "I"
but (instead) we are in
this place
**in the essence of learning
creating collective knowing**

musings, wondering
grounded in possibility

root connected

stretching out, pushing through
dense thick earth to

reach, search (re-search)
the good stuff

**we are gathering, sharing
learning**
Netsunagari
root connected

In this Place, we are
**practicing Community
deconstructing practice,**
we are Bonsai artists
**shaping responses to our
shared challenges**
rooted in the earthy reality of
pragmatism
**Real time, Real life
We help each Other**

persistent. dogged. changing.
**to get to know
one another
one's self
one's practice**
knowing is art. Is doing

eristic **stewards of knowledge**
in this Place, we are
enterprising
strong, fragile
in this Place, **we do not stand
alone**

**We Belong
are Valued
are rooted
to practice,
to our community, our
organization**

in relationship, and
Trust
this is an ephemeral
Place
Netsunagari
Tangible, practical
root connected

in this Place, there is
Promise
agency, savvy,
artful mastery
skillfulness, bold creativity

weaving **changes, learning
asking, the right?**
Questions

**Knowing, Shaping,
Transforming**

We are Bonsai Artists
**cultivating community
practicing community**

Yes, it is,
all about
the moment
who and what and where
we are

