

# Environments and Health Summit

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Nancy Edwards, RN, PhD, FCAHS  
Professor Emerita and Distinguished Professor,  
University of Ottawa  
[www.nancyedwards.ca](http://www.nancyedwards.ca)

# EHSI: Achieving Transformative Impact



# Implementation Systems Orientation of Major Initiatives (Some Highlights)

(Source: N Edwards Farewell Address to Science Council, 2016)

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Equity Systems</b>	<b>Organizational (delivery) systems</b>	<b>Socio-economic &amp; political systems</b>
Health equity programmatic grants	Sociostructural determinants of health	Health care delivery systems for health equity outcomes	Contextual variations
Community-based Primary Health Care	Vulnerable populations	Models of care delivery & access	Cross-jurisdictional comparisons
Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples	Determinants of indigenous peoples' health	Scale-up across western and indigenous health care delivery systems	Indigenous governance and community engagement
Environments and Health	Equity across nexus areas	Intersectoral systems to achieve health outcomes	Municipal, provincial, federal and global regulatory systems
Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases	Universal health care	Scale-up in resource constrained settings	International socio-political comparisons

# Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Communities Conference



*Healthy Communities by Design: Turning Research into Results*



Panelists: Dr. James Dunn (McMaster University), Sandra Almeida (Peel Public Health) and Alex Taranu (City of Brampton)

This conference was an opportunity for IPPH to showcase an evidence informed initiative undertaken by the Region of Peel and broadly implemented in the City of Brampton.

“Peel Public Health is staying ahead of the curve by focusing on built environments as a strategic priority. We are determined to build healthy, active communities for every resident.”

Source:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/resources/healthbydesign/>

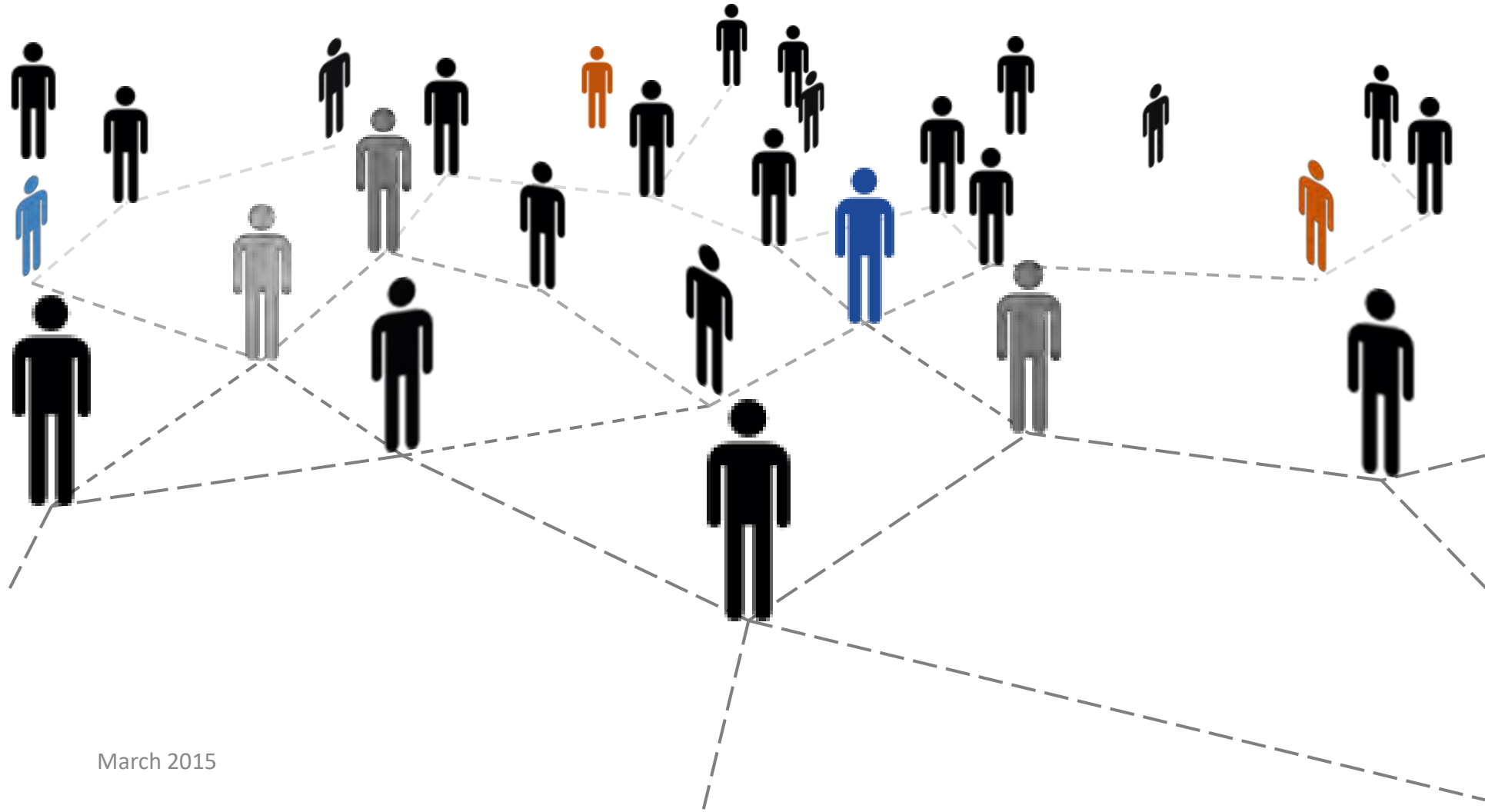
# What impressed me

- Embraced the complexity of environments and health in the design of your projects (*complexity: fear factor*)
- Successfully implemented research plans and built/maintained partnerships despite COVID
- Refined and developed sophisticated measures of the environment
- Diverse approaches/processes used for community engagement
- Capacity building successes
- Attention to structural determinants and gender (intersectionality)
- Reflections on how to learn from different knowledge systems (e.g. “two-eyed seeing”)
- Capturing essence and outcomes of your research in 2-3 minutes

# What I'd like to know

- Were you sufficiently and appropriately challenged by the RFA requirements?
- Deliberate plans for scale-up (e.g. environmental measures, interventions, community engagement approaches)
- Pertinence of your work to Sustainable Development Goals (and Canada's reporting on same)
- Environmental measurement caveats for basic science studies
- Approaches taken to reduce health inequities and to assess institutional (structural racism)
- Was a citizen science approach considered?
- Linking, sustaining and stewarding cohort data
- Experiences working across sectoral boundaries
- How to build connections between EHSI teams and other CIHR funded researchers to advance knowledge translation

# Mapping Intersectoral Linkages and Networks



March 2015

# Suggestions for consideration

- Map partners engaged, levels of government, NGOs and advocacy groups, relevant policy windows; identify gaps to help plan knowledge translation
- CIHR Science Council – emphasize transformative findings, synergistic learning across teams
- Develop working groups - Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases: working groups of researchers and partners addressed: common indicators, systems approach to scale up, NCD research in humanitarian crisis, process evaluation
  - <https://www.gacd.org/community/research-network/working-groups>
- Link with other environmental health researchers who have been funded through open operating grant competition.
- Share your concerns about ethics approval related to data linking and sharing with Tri-Council for Ethics.



# What hasn't changed

- Reward systems for academic research
- Only 24 hours in a day
- Links between government and academic scientists tenuous
- Importance of capacity building with attention to career opportunities
- Interdisciplinary research in this field is essential but challenging

# Voting with your “seat” (Standing = yes, Sitting = no)

1. Engaged the right decision makers/sectors in your project?
2. Engaged policy makers early enough in project implementation?
3. Worked with right level(s) of government: indigenous, municipal, provincial/territorial or federal governments?
4. Optimized the geographic and/or policy diversity of the population(s) you worked with in design of your study?
5. Successfully worked with the networks of your networked partners?

# Provocations

- How can diversity of populations, contexts, and structural determinants be optimally harnessed for future studies on environments and health?
- Does your work have implications for policy? If yes, going forward, who (else) needs to be engaged and when?
- How do you plan to build on and extend the public's growing concerns about the environment and health?
- What policy windows are expected to open in the next few years and how can environments and health researchers be ready for same?
- Who are the main advocates for change in your policy areas of interest and how can they be involved?