



Healthy Communities Conference

The United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership. Many of the goals focus on social aspects of sustainable development.

[THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](https://un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

During the Conference, participants will focus on the social aspects of sustainability and discuss:

- What is a sustainable community?
- How does your organization contribute?
- What have we learned?
- How do we move forward?



September 28, 2022

8:45 AM to 4:00 PM

Registration begins at 8:15 AM

Cost: \$50.00 + TAX

[Click for More Information or to Register](#)



2022 Healthy Communities Conference

Agenda

Fostering Sustainable Communities in Grey-Bruce

The conference planning committee wishes to express that this is a safe and welcome space for all. As COVID lingers, we wish to inform you that thoughtful consideration has been given to infection prevention and control. Social distancing will be in place and masks will be available and encouraged. With the ever-changing nature of the Pandemic, we will communicate should we need to make a shift to virtual.

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST

Catering by Fresh Roots

8:50 AM – 9:00 AM

OPENING REMARKS

Sue Paterson, Chair | Grey Bruce Health Unit Board of Health

Dr. Ian Arra, Medical Officer of Health | Grey Bruce Health Unit

Jason Weppler and Sarah Cowley | Healthy Communities Partnership Co-Chairs

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

OPENING KEYNOTE

Leith Deacon, Associate Professor | Rural Studies Program Coordinator

School of Environmental Design & Rural Development.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause unprecedented challenges around the globe (e.g., business closures, employment disruption, loss of revenue, and inability to maintain critical service delivery). Across small and rural communities, these challenges have been exacerbated by isolation and, in many cases, systemic neglect. Concurrently, 'rural co-morbidities' such as lower rates of self-reported health, lower rates of physical activity, higher rates of obesity, and smoking complicate the design and implementation of effective policy and/or response plans. This presentation will provide an overview of how the pandemic has been experienced by residents from small and rural communities across Ontario, specifically highlighting the impact on their mental health. Data collected from a quantitative survey (N = 25,000) in the Fall of 2021, illustrate that the pandemic has not been experienced equally across and within communities and that current response plans do not consider the contextual realities of rural and small communities. Legislators must work to 'rural-proof' policy and programs to ensure that they are inclusive and are reflective of the realities that residents experience, including those from rural and small communities.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

MORNING BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS

10:15 AM – 11:50 AM

PLENARY SESSION

Rural Innovation Futures

Nicole Norris and Irena Pozgaj-Jones

[Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation, Georgian College](#)

This session will support individuals and organizations in building flourishing communities and economies. Georgian is the first college in Canada designated a changemaker college by AshokaU.

Nicole and Irena will explore case studies of their work, will share learning from a recent research project on rural innovation in Grey County, will illustrate how the UN Sustainable Development Goals align with Georgian's work, and engage participants in tools that empower changemaking.

Agenda Continued

11:50 AM – 12:00 PM

MORNING WRAP UP & INTRO TO AFTERNOON SESSIONS

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Simultaneous)

1. Supportive Outreach Service (SOS) – An Example Of Public Health Approach Of Community Delivered Model
Infection Prevention And Control (IPAC) Hub – A Public Health Experience In IPAC Leadership
Home Takeover – A Pilot To Address The Emerging Issue Of Home Takeover In Rent-Geared-To-Income Neighborhoods

Moderator: Dr. Rim Zayed, Grey Bruce Health Unit

2. Extension of the Keynote; Bring your Questions & Take a Deeper Dive – This session will focus on the need to ensure that locally-collected data drive policy decisions

Moderator: Leith Deacon, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

3. Community Governance – Why is Community Governance Essential to Sustainable Healthcare? An informative and thoughtful discussion

Moderator: South East Grey Community Health Centre

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM

AFTERNOON BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM

PARTICIPATORY SESSION / INTERACTIVE

Nicole Norris and Irena Pozgaj-Jones

[Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation, Georgian College](#)

Georgian College, in partnership with OCADU and Selkirk College, conducted a rural innovation study across Grey County in the spring 2022. The study's goal is to make explicit the potential for our diverse networks to facilitate rural innovation and contribute to provincial and national innovation conversations.

Explore together how this data helps us understand how to work better together to create flourishing futures in Bruce and Grey Counties.

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

SUMMARY & WRAP-UP

4:00 PM

CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

Throughout the conference there will be education materials and opportunities for knowledge exchange.