

Metropolis Social Determinants of Health

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**October 2-3, 2023
Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel, Gatineau, Quebec**

Deadline to submit: June 10th, 2023

The multiple and varied impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals, communities and institutions illustrated the importance of social determinants of health (SDH) and confirmed that they account for one-third to one-half of health outcomes. During the pandemic, understanding the socio-demographic characteristics of Canadians and tracking their evolving attitudes and behaviours was essential for establishing effective policies and programs to mitigate the virus and its effects.

The pandemic shed considerable light on the country's persisting social and economic inequalities, thus challenging the notion that Canadians were equally affected by COVID-19. Certain communities, including low-income people, racialized minorities, indigenous peoples, im/migrants and seniors were especially vulnerable due to these inequalities which led to higher rates of infection, higher mortality rates and higher rates of adverse health consequences following infection.

Rapid pandemic response required targeted social research, swift data collection and analysis, and successful knowledge mobilization as well as the ability to pivot and change course as the situation evolved. This helped inform public policies to address inequalities and improve the capacity to respond to the critical challenges arising from the virus.

Effective and accurate health communication was essential in the battle against COVID-19 due to the alarming rate at which misinformation and disinformation. Limited health literacy is most common amongst non-native English or French speakers, racial and ethnic minorities, new immigrants and those of low-socioeconomic status and people with low health literacy are more likely to report poor health status. Interventions focused on improving health literacy were critical in addressing the crisis.

The Metropolis SDH summit aims to examine lessons learned from the contagion for social researchers, policy makers and service providers via an examination of the demographic, social, economic, political and behavioral factors that impacted the ability to respond the health emergency arising from the pandemic with a view to establishing a more equitable healthcare system that enables better health outcomes for all.

This multi-disciplinary conference will bring together experts across disciplines to share knowledge, expertise and insights on the lessons learned from COVID-19. Contributions from health researchers, health care providers, settlement agencies, non-profit organizations, faith groups and other grassroots organizations are welcome. Together, we endeavor to promote health equity, increase knowledge and improve patient trust in public health by developing health literacy and limiting disinformation through the creation of effective and inclusive messaging.

We're inviting workshop, roundtable and poster submissions within the framework of these following themes and topics:

- Immigration
- Indigenous peoples
- Racialized/Visible Minority groups
- Racism and Discrimination
- Gender
- Disability
- Income and social protection
- Education
- Unemployment and job insecurity
- Employment conditions and Occupational health
- Food insecurity
- Housing, basic amenities and the environment
- Early childhood development
- Family (Culture, social norms)
- Social inclusion and non-discrimination
- Structural conflict
- Access to affordable health services of decent quality
- Mental Health
- Misinformation and disinformation relative to the pandemic
- Health Communication
- Health Promotion
- Cross-country comparisons
- Community Health
- Transportation
- Access to mass media and emerging technologies (e.g., cell phones, the Internet, and social media)

Please note selected presentations from the event will be published in *Canadian Diversity* and the *Canadian Journal for Social Research*.

WORKSHOP FORMATS

Workshops/panel presentation sessions (75 minutes)

Workshops will usually consist of a minimum of three to a maximum of five presentations of approximately 15 minutes each followed by at least 20 minutes of discussion. Workshop rooms will be equipped with a laptop, screen, and projector. Workshop organizers will preside over the session or designate another individual to do so.

Roundtables (75 minutes)

The roundtable format is suitable for more informal discussions of emerging issues or controversies. Roundtables are intended to facilitate discussion to a greater extent than time may permit in Workshop/panel presentation type sessions. It is a very effective format for the exchange of information and experiences among all participants attending the session.

Poster presentations

Poster sessions provide an alternative format through which conference participants can share research which has not been otherwise presented. Posters should provide some conclusive results, even if preliminary. Poster presenters must provide their own display materials of a maximum of 4' high and 3.5' wide posters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

In order to open as many opportunities as possible for the most participants, we ask that:

- Organizers promote the participation of as many different presenters as possible;
 - Participants may organize more than one workshop (**please limit to 3 proposals per organization**) but on different topics;
 - An organizer can choose to participate in additional workshops as a chair, participant or discussant;
 - If you are listed as a presenter in more than one workshop, we may ask you to choose the workshop that you would prefer to participate in;
 - Each person listed as an organizer, participant, chair or discussant in a workshop must register to the conference either as a day or full conference participant and pay the applicable registration fees. Please inform your presenters of this requirement when inviting them to participate in your workshop.
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- **If you are interested in presenting a paper, we strongly encourage you to solicit colleagues from your area of expertise and from different sectors to submit a workshop proposal.** If you do not have the ability to put together a workshop proposal with other colleagues but you are still interested in presenting a paper, a research project or another presentation, please consider selecting a "poster presentation option" format when prompted.
 - **If you submit an individual paper presentation your paper will be grouped in a session with two other paper presentations** on the same general theme and you will each have approx. 15-20 minutes to present in the session.
 - **An Adjudication Committee will meet to review the workshop proposals after the submission deadline.** The Adjudication Committee will consider proposals that include a clear title, abstract and summary as well as a list of at least three confirmed presenters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

The Adjudication Committee will place priority on:

- Workshops that have confirmed and combined presenters from the three sectors: academic, non-governmental and government policy
- Workshops that involve graduate students.
- Workshops that bring perspectives of those with lived experience and that include diverse representation.
- Workshops that include participants across various regions of Canada or the world.

Please note that all presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fee as posted on the conference website.

Session organizers will be required to provide the information listed below during the submission process via our website:

- Name and contact information
- Format of your session (workshop or roundtable)
- Theme (from the 5 above) in which the session falls under
- Title of your session
- Names of co-organizers (if applicable)
- Names of presenters including their affiliation, email address and titles of their presentation
- 50-word abstract which will be included in the program (please make sure it is descriptive but is also formulated to interest as many conference participants as possible)

Please note that the information you provide us will be included in the conference program.

Please verify the spelling of your presenters' names and the titles of their presentations.

If you are organizing a session with both English AND French presentations, we ask that you provide us with the translation of the title and 50-word abstract for the program.