

Climate Driven Infectious Disease Project: Personal Story Submission and Consent Form

Background

There is clear evidence that climate change is increasing the risk of infectious disease affecting the health of populations globally¹. In 2014, the government of Canada released a national-scale assessment of the impact of climate on health in this country.² It concluded that higher temperatures have been lengthening the transmission season of vector-borne diseases and expanding their geographical range Northward. In addition to vector-borne diseases, climate change is increasing precipitation, flooding, and drought in Canada which increases the risk of water-borne and food-borne infectious disease outbreaks. Current evidence indicates that the trends in climate change in Canada observed to date will continue, as will the risk of climate driven infectious diseases. As the largest health professional group in Canada, numbering 283,482³, nurses have an important role to play in addressing health challenges related to climate change. The International Council of Nurses has called upon the profession to participate in actions to mitigate the impact of climate change and, in particular, to address its effects on populations with a greater vulnerability to disease⁴.

Project Overview

In August 2018, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada to conduct a project titled *'Empowering the next generation of health care professionals with knowledge, skills, tools, and supports to address infectious diseases related to climate change in Canada'*. The project will be carried out over the course of 30 months, concluding in March 2021. The long-term outcome would be to reduce the impact of climate driven infectious diseases in Canada by ensuring that future nurses have the knowledge and capacity to support and advise individual, family, and community clients either affected by, or at risk of being affected by climate driven infectious disease.

National E-Resource

To achieve this goal, CASN is creating **an e-resource** that will be accessible to educators, students, and practicing health professionals to facilitate and foster the integration of the health effects of climate change and infectious diseases in schools of nursing across Canada. The e-resource will be organized into modules and will be supported by interactive and dynamic case studies that are fictive but informed by real life lived experience with vector borne-diseases.

¹ Government of Canada. (2015). Climate Change and Public Health Factsheets. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/environmental-public-health-climate-change/climate-change-public-health-factsheets.html>

² Warren, F. J., & Lemmen, D. S. (2014). *Canada in a changing climate*. Government of Canada: Ottawa, ON. Retrieved from <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/environment/resources/publications/impacts-adaptation/reports/assessments/2008/10253>

³ Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2017). *Regulated Nurses, 2016: RN/NP Data Tables* [Data set]. Retrieved from <https://www.cihi.ca/en/regulated-nurses-2016>

⁴ Sayre, L., Rhazi, N., Carpenter, H., & Hughes, N. L. (2010). Climate change and human health: the role of nurses in confronting the issue. *Nursing Administration Quarterly*, 34(4), 334–42. Retrieved from <http://sfbaypsr.org/pdfs/NAQ%20Article.pdf>



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Personal Story Submission

NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE (e.g. Lyme disease, West Nile Virus): _____

1. Please describe your experience of this disease and how it has impacted your life. (max 100 words)

2. What are the challenges you have faced? (max 100 words)



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3. What did you find most helpful during this experience? What helped the most? (max 100 words)

4. What do nurses and other health professionals need to know when working to support the needs of individuals, families, communities and/or populations affected by vector-borne diseases? (max 100 words)



CONSENT FORM

1. Purpose

I understand that the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) may use the information from my submission in a case study for a national e-resource on climate-driven vector-borne diseases. CASN reserves the right to determine, in its discretion, which information it will use.

2. My Role

My submission is voluntary. I understand that if I am uncomfortable, I can choose not to answer any of the questions.

3. Confidentiality & Risk

CASN guarantees that it will use its best effort to secure the confidentiality and anonymity of the personal submission that I have provided. No information will be included that could identify me or be linked to me. Fictional names will be used; incidents portrayed may also be modified to protect my privacy. CASN's development team will also assume responsibility for appropriately disposing (e.g. shredding) of any confidential materials once this work has been successfully completed. My submission will be deleted electronically, and any hard copies destroyed as soon as the e-resource is completed.

There are no other known or anticipated risks to me.

4. Signature

Signature

Print Name

Date

For Further Information:

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