

# RYERSON UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child and Youth Care  
Disability Studies  
Early Childhood Studies  
Midwifery  
Nursing  
Nutrition  
Occupational and Public  
Health  
Social Work  
Urban and Regional  
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# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON  
GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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June 25, 2015

## Pope Francis' Call to Action Targets the Environment



See: [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/21/opinion/sunday/ross-douthat-pope-francis-call-to-action-goes-beyond-the-environment.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/21/opinion/sunday/ross-douthat-pope-francis-call-to-action-goes-beyond-the-environment.html?_r=0)

AND: <http://www.catholic.com/blog/jimmy-akin/pope-francis%E2%80%99s-environmental-encyclical-13-things-to-know-and-share>

Pope Francis believes that there are significant ecological problems today that need to be addressed. They include not only problems in the natural environment but also in the human sphere, particularly among the poorest. His encyclical is a call to action against climate change. This document is aligned with the scientific consensus on climate...it calls for global action.

## Why is Canada Ignoring the Health of its Aboriginal Peoples?

It is clear that the federal government's track record when it comes to anything aboriginal is dismal at best. A determination to ignore the travesty of missing and dead aboriginal women, turning a blind eye to aboriginal youth suicide, the rejection of any real effort to equalize education opportunities for Aboriginal children flags much of what is wrong with government policy.



See: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/why-is-canada-ignoring-the-health-of->

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## WHO Recommends Involving Men in Maternal & Newborn Health

Interventions to promote the involvement of men during pregnancy, childbirth and after birth are recommended to facilitate and support improved self-care of women, improved home care practices for women and newborns, improved use of skilled care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period for women and newborns, and increase the timely use of facility care for obstetric and newborn complications.



See: <http://www.familyincluded.com/involvement-men-maternal-newborn-health/>

AND: <http://www.duncanfisher.com/state-of-the-worlds-fathers/>

## Kidney Disease Treatment Not For All in Uganda



Vincent Mugenyi, a 65-year-old retired pilot from the Ugandan Air Force, has lost count of how many dialysis treatment slots he has had to attend in the eight years he has been fighting chronic kidney disease. He spends eight hours a week on a dialysis machine in Mulago National Referral. In Uganda, Kalyesubula told IPS, a person would rather be diagnosed with HIV than kidney disease. "I say that mainly because HIV has a lot of support systems in Uganda. But for kidney disease, you are there on your own.

See: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/06/kidney-disease-treatment-not-for-all-in-uganda/>

## Managing the Tide of Childhood Obesity

The 2013 Global Burden of Disease Study showed a rise since 1980 of 47% in children with a BMI of greater than 25. Child obesity is associated with a greater risk of obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, and premature death and disability in adulthood. Obese children and adolescents have greater risk of bone and joint problems, sleep apnoea, and social and psychological problems such as poor self-esteem and stigmatisation. Obesity is also on the rise in low-income and middle-income countries, with undernutrition-related stunting and obesity creating a double burden of disease for populations.



See: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)61122-9/fulltext?elsca1=etoc&elsca2=email&elsca3=0140-6736\\_20150620\\_385\\_9986\\_&elsca4=Public%20Health%7CInfectious%20Diseases%7CHealth%20Policy%7CInternal%2FFamily%20Medicine%7CGeneral%20Surgery%7CLancetC](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)61122-9/fulltext?elsca1=etoc&elsca2=email&elsca3=0140-6736_20150620_385_9986_&elsca4=Public%20Health%7CInfectious%20Diseases%7CHealth%20Policy%7CInternal%2FFamily%20Medicine%7CGeneral%20Surgery%7CLancetC)

## Climate Justice: Trial by Public Opinion for World's Polluters



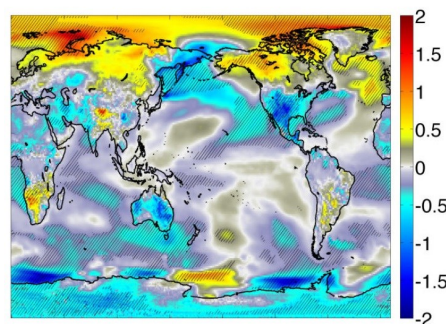
The United Nations, which is tasked with the protection of the global environment, has asserted that climate change affects people everywhere with no exceptions.

Still, one of the greatest inequities of our time is that the poorest and the most marginalised individuals, communities and countries which have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions often bear the greatest burden.

See: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/06/climate-justice-trial-by-public-opinion-for-worlds-polluters/>

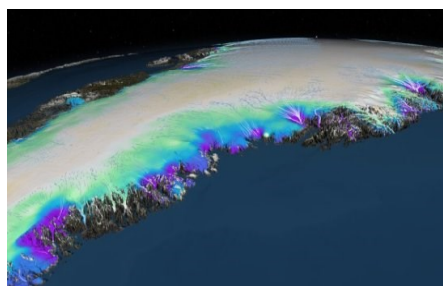
## Arctic Warming: Scientists Identify New Driver

A mechanism that could turn out to be a big contributor to warming in the Arctic region and melting sea ice has been identified. Open oceans are much less efficient than sea ice when it comes to emitting in the far-infrared region of the spectrum, a previously unknown phenomenon that is likely contributing to the warming of the polar climate. In the Arctic, open oceans hold more far-infrared energy than sea ice, resulting in warmer oceans, melting sea ice, and a 2-degree Celsius increase in the polar climate after only a 25-year run.



See: [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141103161929.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop\\_news%2Ftop\\_science+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Top+Science+News%29](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141103161929.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop_news%2Ftop_science+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Top+Science+News%29)

## Greenland Meltwater Contributes to Rising Sea Levels



As the largest single chunk of melting snow and ice in the world, the massive ice sheet that covers about 80 percent of Greenland is recognized as the biggest potential contributor to rising sea levels due to glacial meltwater. It's the world's biggest water park, with magnificent and beautiful but deadly rushing blue rivers cutting canyons into the ice! The meltwater is going directly to the ocean.

See: [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150113111621.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop\\_news%2Ftop\\_science+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Top+Science+News%29](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150113111621.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop_news%2Ftop_science+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Top+Science+News%29)

AND: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141215154522.htm?>



## Cities Will Be Decisive in Fight for Sustainable Development

While slums continue to grow in most developing countries, enforcing other forms of inequality, urban planning requires a shift from viewing urbanisation mainly as a problem to seeing it as a powerful tool for development. Cities are at the forefront of the global battle against climate change. The way in which cities are planned, run and managed is crucial. The leadership role of mayors and city governments is therefore of fundamental importance.



See: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/06/cities-will-be-decisive-in-fight-for-sustainable-development/>

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## GM Cotton a False Promise for Africa



Genetically modified (GM) cotton has been produced globally for almost two decades, yet to date only three African countries have grown GM cotton on a commercial basis South Africa, Burkina Faso and Sudan. African governments have been sceptical of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for decades and have played a key role historically in ensuring that international law the, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, takes a precautionary stance towards genetic engineering in food and agriculture.

See: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/06/opinion-gm-cotton-a-false-promise-for-africa/>

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## In Ebola's Last Mile, Community Engagement is Key

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa that has claimed thousands of lives and wreaked havoc on the fragile economies of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia is no longer front page news. But despite significant progress in tackling the epidemic, the virus remains, and international as well as local health workers are still working day and night to get to zero cases. Better community engagement is the key, according to Dr. Christopher Braden, deputy incident manager for Ebola response at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I do think this community engagement is something we haven't quite got to where we need to be," Braden told Devex Thursday, after speaking on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. "If people want to hide a loved one who's ill, they're probably going to be able to do that."



See: <https://www.devex.com/news/at-ebola-s-last-mile-community-engagement-is-key-86380>

CONFERENCES &



SYMPOSIUMS

| Date              | Conference  | Location                             | Registration Site   |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| June 29-30        | 4th Annual Global Healthcare Conference (GHC 2015)  | Singapore, Singapore                 | <a href="http://events.einnews.com/event/23735/_4th_annual_global_healthcare_conference_ghc_2015_">http://events.einnews.com/event/23735/_4th_annual_global_healthcare_conference_ghc_2015_</a>               |
| August 25-27      | The Global Forum for Research and Innovation for Health 2015                                    | Manila, Philippines                  | <a href="http://blog.cohred.org/67/forum-2015-people-at-the-center-of-research-and-innovation-for-health">http://blog.cohred.org/67/forum-2015-people-at-the-center-of-research-and-innovation-for-health</a> |
| Aug. 25 to Sep. 2 | The Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa (SASA) 3rd International Annual Conference | Toronto, Ontario                     | <a href="http://sasascience.org/call-for-abstracts/">http://sasascience.org/call-for-abstracts/</a>   |
| September 16-18   | Community Health Centers: Agents for Care, Agents of Change                                     | Ottawa, Ontario                      | <a href="http://www.cachc.ca/acac2015">http://www.cachc.ca/acac2015</a>   |
| November 5-7      | Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015   | Bonaventure Hotel - Montreal, Quebec | <a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/">http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/</a>   |

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**“The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all.”**

Pope Francis in his new Encyclical (June 18, 2015; see next page)



With determination to save one's natural environment (see next page)

## Planetary Health Weekly

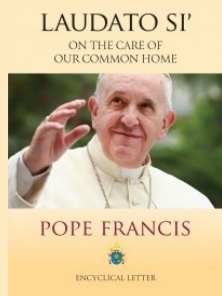


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Planetary Health Weekly  
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Editor: Dr. David Zakus  
Production: Anna Oda



ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
**LAUDATO SI'**  
 OF THE HOLY FATHER  
**FRANCIS**  
 ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

### SOME QUOTES:

*"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord"*. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".[1]

"This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her." [2]

"A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system." [23]

"Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity." [14]

"International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. Those who will have to suffer the consequences of what we are trying to hide will not forget this failure of conscience and responsibility." [169]

"it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. When they remain on their land, they themselves care for it best. Nevertheless, in various parts of the world, pressure is being put on them to abandon their homelands to make room for agricultural or mining projects which are undertaken without regard for the degradation of nature and culture." [146]

"In some places, cooperatives are being developed to exploit renewable sources of energy which ensure local self-sufficiency and even the sale of surplus energy. This simple example shows that, while the existing world order proves powerless to assume its responsibilities, local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instil a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. They are also concerned about what they will eventually leave to their children and grandchildren. These values are deeply rooted in indigenous peoples." [179]

See for full text: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)