



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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Left My Lungs in Aamajiwnaang

The first thing noticeable about Sarnia, Ontario is the smell: a potent mix of gasoline, melting asphalt, and the occasional trace of rotten egg. It feels like there is not enough air in the town due to the bouquet of smokestacks in the southern part of town that, all day every day, belch fumes and orange flares. Sarnia is home to more than 60 refineries and chemical plants that produce gasoline, synthetic rubbers and other materials.

[Read More on vice.com](#)



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Zika Vaccine Still Years Away	2
Rising Global Wealth to Curb Malaria	
India's Toilet Crisis is a Gender Divide	
Climate Change and Rural Development	3
Illegally Collected Himalayan Plant Seeds	
Africa Plantains at Risk of Disease	
European Medical Corps	4
Extreme Altruism	
First Nations' Public-Health Emergency	
Weekly Bulletin: QOTW & Events	5
FYI#1: Mental Health on Air	6
FYI#2: NCD Alliance	7
FYI#3: Global Development Resume	8
FYI#4: Climate Action and the Economy	9
FYI#5: Webcast: The Health Gap	10
FYI#6: Planetary Health Conference	11

Stunning Global Heat Wave Pushes Planet Into Uncharted Territory

Humanity's experiment with planetary warming has reached a new level of extremes. Last month was the hottest February in 137 years of record keeping. Unprecedented temperatures in the Arctic melted away layers of ice to record-low levels. The heat helped prolong the longest planet-wide coral bleaching event. These grim milestones coincide with the biggest recorded jump in CO2 levels.

[Read More on bloomberg.com](#)

[Read More on theecologist.com](#)





Zika Vaccine Still Years Away

More than 60 research institutes and companies are working on products to combat the spread of the Zika virus, but a vaccine is likely to take years to develop and may come too late for the outbreak now sweeping across Latin America and the Caribbean. Vaccine development was one of three priorities global health experts identified as they are taking stock of gaps in what is known about the disease and setting plans to accelerate the development of countermeasures. Eighteen organizations are working on developing a vaccine for the Zika virus, but the most advanced product is still months from starting human clinical trials, and the release of a vaccine is still “years away.”

[Read The Report on New York Times](#)

Rising Global Wealth Primed to Curb Malaria

Middle-income countries have reached a level of wealth and urbanisation comparable to that of European countries when they wiped out malaria last century, offering hope of rapid global progress against the disease. Housing, healthcare and lifestyle improvements in more-affluent developing nations could soon lead to huge drops in the disease’s prevalence. Malaria was common in central Europe until the 1920s and 1930s, but was then eliminated by a combination of factors including: active efforts to target the mosquitoes that transmit the disease such as insecticide spraying and draining.

[Read More on SciDevNet](#)



How India’s Toilet Crisis is Also a Noxious Gender Divide

In May 2014, images of two teenage cousins hanging from a mango tree in the Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh, in northern India, flooded Indian newspapers and television screens. According to reports, the girls, aged 14 and 15 years, went missing the previous night, after stepping out to answer nature’s call in the fields. Currently under dispute, initial post-mortem examinations revealed that the two had been gang raped and strangled by hanging. A severe lack of sanitation facilities across India is not only putting lives in danger – it’s exposing just how deep gender inequality goes.

[Read More on Collectively](#)



Climate Change and Rural Development in Mongolia

For Mongolians, climate change is as personal as it gets. Summers are becoming drier and hotter, while winters are bringing unprecedented cold temperatures as low as minus 50 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, snowfall has rendered almost everything — from pasture lands for livestock to roads, schools and health centers for social services — inaccessible. The colder winter has pushed people to burn more coal for heating and electricity and clouds of pollutants hover over cities and villages, posing a threat to both the environment and human health.

[Read More on Devex](#)

Illegally Collected Himalayan Plant Seeds Sold in UK

Seeds of exotic plants illegally collected in the Himalayas are being sold in the UK. National Himalayan authorities say no permission was obtained to gather and export the plant material. The activity harms the environment and deprives local people of benefits from the trade of plants. Some of the suppliers said that locals had actually helped them collect the flowers; others said they did not know their activities were illegal. Experts say horticulture societies and clubs across the UK have long raised questions about such practice.

[Read More on BBC](#)



African Staple Plantains at Risk of Same Diseases as Bananas

Plantains, an important staple in Uganda, as well as through much of the tropical world, are susceptible to the same diseases currently threatening the world's most popular banana, the Cavendish. The fruit, which is closely related to bananas, is an important source of starch and calories, and is also very rich in vitamin A. Protecting the plantains is important because they help to fill the hunger gap in the off-season when other crops have already been harvested. Unlike other crops plantains can be grown year round, they are cheaper to grow than any other crop in Africa and they also provide valuable shade for other crops.

[Read More on IPS News](#)



What to Know About the European Medical Corps

One of the biggest realizations of the aid world at the height of the Ebola crisis was the lack of sufficient response teams ready for immediate deployment in the event of a public health emergency. Ebola response suffered from gaps in human resources, from qualified health care workers to logisticians and engineers who were willing and able to face the risks on the ground. The European Union recently launched the European Medical Corps, a certified team of experts in public health and emergency medical response who can be rapidly deployed in the event of an emergency. How will it work and what talent is needed?

[Read More on Devex](#)

Extreme Altruism

Sue Hoag was 12 when she read a book about a family that adopted several needy children, and from then on she wanted to do that, too. When she met and married Hector Badeau, they decided to have two children of their own and adopt two. They did so, but they could not shut out the knowledge that other children were in desperate need of a good home – children who were unlikely to be adopted because of a disability or their race, age, or a history of violence. Hoag and Badeau were not at all wealthy, but they ended up with a family of 20 adopted children, as well as their two biological children.

[Read More on Project Syndicate](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH First Nations in 'State of Shock' as They Declare Public-Health Emergency

First Nations leaders from northern Ontario declared a public-health emergency related to what they called a dire shortage of basic medical supplies and an epidemic of suicides among young people. The declaration — essentially a desperate plea for help — calls for urgent action from the federal and provincial governments to address a crisis they said has resulted in needless suffering and deaths. The declaration calls on governments to respond within 90 days.

[Read More on The Star](#)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

When asked how he manages living so close to overwhelming issues, Binod Chaudhary, Nepal's wealthiest citizen, reflecting on all the current needs of Nepal replied: **"If you're not living close to the edge, you're taking up too much space!"**

[Read More on forbes.com](http://forbes.com)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Apr. 8-9	Planetary Health Conference: Global Health and Ecological Wellness	Toronto Canada	http://ryerson.ca/fcs/conferences/
Apr. 9-11	7th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference	San Francisco USA	http://cugh.org/
Apr. 16-17	Global Health and Innovation Conference	New Haven USA	https://maestro
May 11-13	Interdisciplinary Thinking and Planning: Sharing Good Practice and Learning New Ways of Doing	Prague Czech Republic	http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/
May 13	Integrative Health Institute (IHI) Inaugural Conference	Edmonton Canada	https://uofa.ualberta.ca/
May 13-15	Peace, Global Health and Sustainability (PEGASUS)	Toronto Canada	http://www.pegasusconference.ca/
May 17-20	International Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health (ICIMH)	Las Vegas USA	https://www.cvent.com/
May 26-27	Indigenous Health Conference	Toronto Canada	http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/
Jul. 8-9	2016 Summer Global Nursing Symposium	Los Angeles USA	http://www.uofriverside.com/
Nov. 21-24	9th Global Conference on Health Promotion	Shanghai China	http://www.who.int/healthpromotion



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Mental Health on Air: Healthy Minds, Resilient Communities

Teen Mental Health vision is to help improve the mental health of youth by the effective translation and transfer of scientific knowledge.

Their model is to use the best scientific evidence available to develop application-ready training programs, publications, tools and resources that can be applied across disciplines to enhance the understanding of adolescent mental health and mental disorders.

Teen Mental Health are committed to creating and disseminating the highest quality mental health information (products and training programs), addressing the needs of youth (ages 12 to 25 years), families, educators, health providers, policy makers and others.

[Read More on teenmentalhealth.org](http://teenmentalhealth.org)

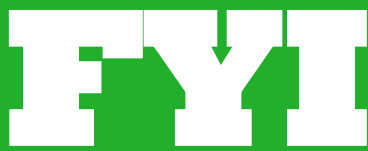


Non-Communicable Disease Alliance

NCD Alliance is uniquely placed to drive the NCD agenda forward. It is a recognized global thought leader on NCD policy and practice, a convener of the civil society movement, a partner to governments and UN agencies, and an advocate for people at risk of or living with NCDs. It has an impressive track record, but it also has the vision, the expertise and the solutions to drive change from the global to the local for the millions of people with NCDs worldwide.

The NCD Alliance's advocacy activities seek to ensure that WHO and UN commitments to improve the lives of people with NCDs and those at risk are followed-up and implemented at regional, national and local community levels.

[Read More on NDC Alliance](#)



[Read More About the Most Common and Most Important CV Formats in International Development on Devex](#)



The Truth About Climate Action and the Economy

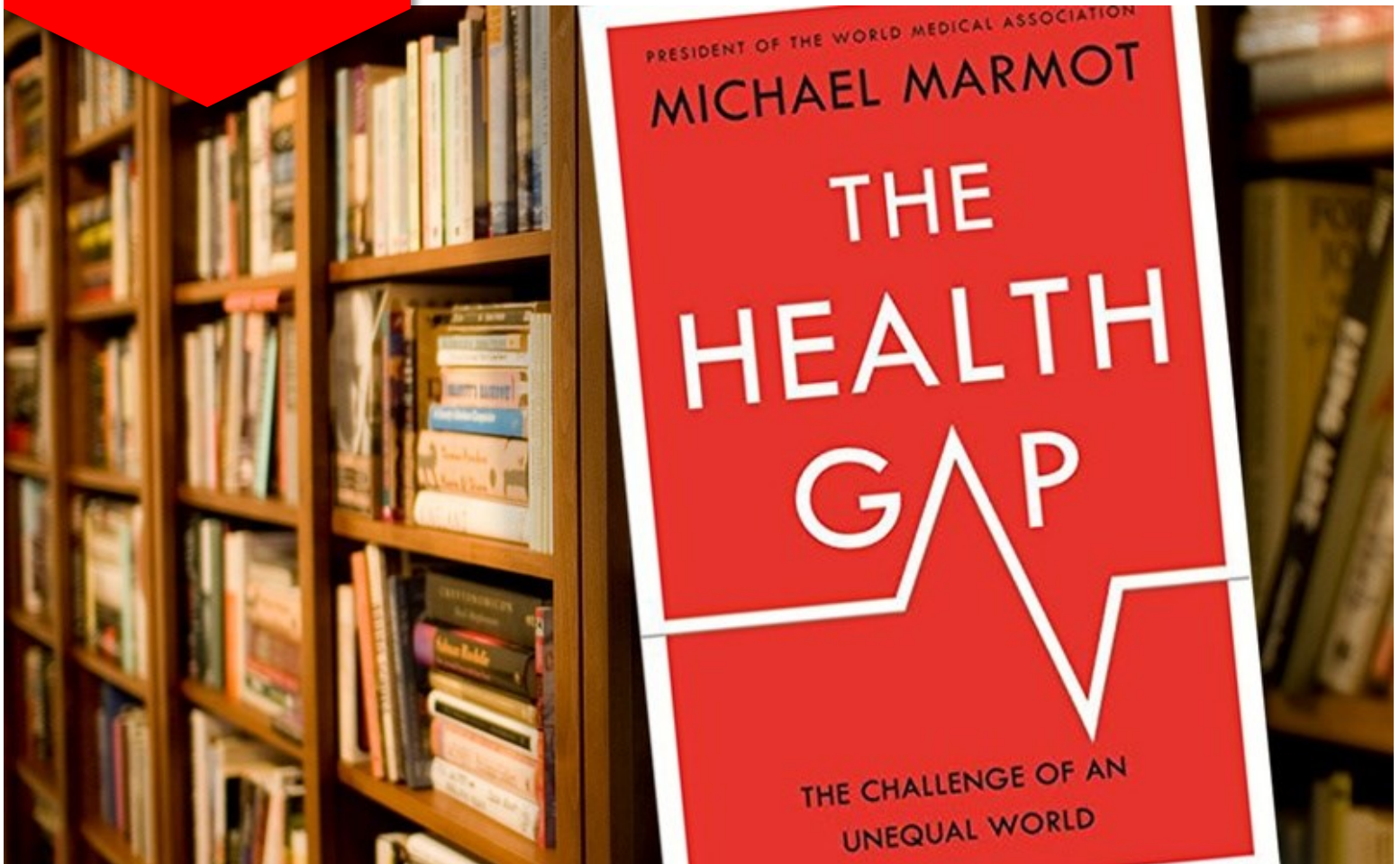
Ever heard that climate action will hurt the economy? What if we don't do anything about the climate?

Some media outlets and public officials love to repeat this one and just like with other claims, the absence of supporting facts doesn't seem to stop them.

Over and over, we hear the claim that we can't afford to shift to clean energy and address climate change. But actually: we can't afford not to. According to a 2012 study by the European non-governmental organization the DARA Group and the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the economic losses due to climate change amounted to nearly \$700 billion in 2010 alone. And on average each year, climate change is responsible for 400,000 lives lost. How? Just look at the devastation of the New Jersey shore in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Witness the homes turned to splinters in the Philippines by Typhoon Haiyan. In each case, the horrifying list of injuries and fatalities was just the beginning, as the businesses and communities that relied on them struggled to get back on their feet long after the rescue crews and television cameras left. Consider the California farmers forced to watch their fields wither as one year of record drought stretches into another. And on and on.

Here's the flipside to give you a good bit of #ClimateHope: decarbonizing the electricity system would save \$1.8 trillion over the coming two decades.

[Read More on Climate Reality Project](#)



Webcast Event: Sir Michael Marmot - The Health Gap **Wednesday April 6, 2016, 6-7:30 pm EDT**

Social determinants of health have a direct impact on the health of Ontarians. Income, social support networks, education and employment, physical and social environments all play a role in our health.

To help explore these issues, the Ontario College of Family Physicians and St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto will be hosting a live webcast with Sir Michael Marmot, author and a leading international expert on the link between health and social inequality. He will share observations from his new book *The Health Gap - The Challenge of an Unequal World*, and join in a conversation moderated by John Cruickshank, Publisher of the *Toronto Star* and President of Star Media Group.

When: Wednesday April 6, 2016, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. EDT

How: a link to the webcast will be sent to all those who have registered.

[Register for the Event by April 5, 2016.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Murphy at lmurphy@cfpc.ca

Planetary Health Conference

Global Health and Ecological Wellness

**Start Local - Think Global - Make the Connections
Meet the Players - Become a Global Citizen**



April 8, 2016

5:30 - 9:00 P.M.

The Stephen Lewis Conversations Series with **Maude Barlow**, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians.

April 8 & 9, 2016

**Ryerson University
Tecumseh Auditorium
Oakham House
63 Gould Street**

April 9, 2016

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Presentations showcasing global health and ecological wellness initiatives led by Ryerson's professors, students and staff with keynote speaker, **Bill Ryerson**, Founder and President of Population Media Center, and Chair and CEO of the Population Institute.

Explore engagement and ideas from across Ryerson's campus dealing with important and urgent Planetary Health issues.

RSVP: <http://ryerson.ca/fcs/conferences/planetary-health/>

Ryerson University

**Faculty of
Community
Services**



planetary health commission



There is a real need for more informed, balanced and respectful public discussion and dialogue on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

This Newsletter is FREE.

Planetary Health Weekly is an e-newsletter published in collaboration with the **Planetary Health Commission** at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada
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Planetary Health Weekly



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Community
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*Programs designed to transcend
disciplinary boundaries to find lasting
solutions to social issues.*

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Disability Studies
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