



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Volume 6, Number 11 <https://planetaryhealthweekly.com> March 12, 2020

Hi,

It's ominous coronavirus times for sure in the world of global health, but today marks, exactly, the fifth anniversary of the **Planetary Health Weekly** (see End Shots). Back in 2015 it was my desire to start sharing on a regular and periodic basis the news of events that I felt were shaping the world in immense ways. A couple of years earlier I had started the *Global Health Weekly* when I was at the University of Alberta, but soon realized that without integrating the environment into my work and information sharing about global health the result would be incomplete and insufficient. I came to realize that the two must be considered together because of their interrelationships, because of their symbiotic nature, each contributing to the other, be it positive or negative. The negative, however, often takes the day, as well demonstrated in all **PHWs** since, including today's #11 of 2020. For how can our continued explosive population growth (1/4 million a day more), as just one example, be considered without understanding its effect on the environment. And how could our impact on the climate not take into consideration the big effects it is having on human (and animal) health. There are so many interrelated impacts to consider, like environmental sustainability, food security, education, economics and just plain survival.

Thus, some 250+ issues later over these five years, the urgency hasn't diminished nor the importance of planetary health. Just the contrary. The issues of environmental wellness and global health are ever more important, not just to the audience of

students and academic colleagues I had earlier targeted when at Ryerson University, but to everyone. Who is now not aware and concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the world. It's front and centre in the minds of probably most everyone, everywhere. Even though its health impact is still relatively minor compared to almost any other disease we deal with in the **PHW**, its impact is vast and its ultimate control must not only include health but also the environment, both physical and social.

Today's **Planetary Health Weekly** is about this intimate relationship. Take a look at:

- Interesting and perhaps novel takes on COVID-19,
- Trump's antiglobalist approach to global health and environment,
- Women routinely getting unwanted pelvic exams, being violated while anesthetized,
- Ethiopian girls' imposed with unsafe pregnancies,
- Continued violence against women and girls,
- A new Lancet series on malnutrition's double burden,
- Ecuador's Indigenous trying to survive an oil rush,
- 15 years of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,
- Coronavirus reducing carbon emissions,
- Having smaller families to survive,
- Big alcohol's fundamental conflict of interest,
- Scary diphtheria in a Saskatchewan First Nation,
- Canadian Inuit and reporters calling out the New York Times for 'trauma porn',
- Future prospects for Alberta's oilsands,
- Robotic surgeries finally getting affordable,
- Using prevention to beat cancer,
- A new book by Susan Rosenthal on the urgent need for socialism,
- How staying in school helps you to live longer, and more.

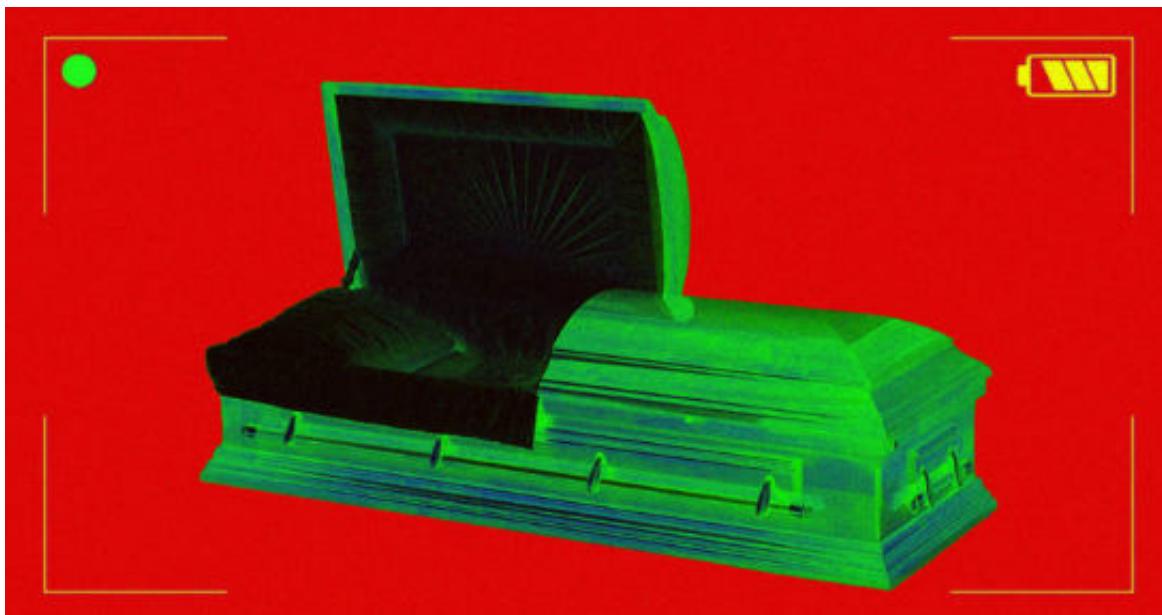
I hope you'll take a read.

Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 UPDATES

CORONAVIRUS COULD FORCE FUNERALS TO BE LIVESTREAMED



Credit: VICTOR TANGERMANN

How can you say goodbye to a loved one who fell victim to a pandemic? The recent and ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has forced those in the funeral business to address some uncomfortable questions. In fact, in a [statement to Sky News](#), the United Kingdom's National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) said that in the event of a pandemic, memorial services may need to be held over the internet. The NAFD says it's in "dialogue with the [UK] government and local authorities to seek early guidance on steps funeral directors may need to take in the event of a pandemic." [Read More at Futurism](#)

See Also:

At WashingtonPost: [What Is Coronavirus: Symptoms, How It Spreads, How To Avoid It?](#)

At CDC: [COVID-19 Information For Travellers](#)

At JAMAnet Work: [Epidemiologic Features And Clinical Course Of Patients Infected With SARS-CoV-2 In Singapore](#)

At CBC: ['They Have Changed The Course Of This Outbreak:' Revelations From Handling Of Coronavirus In China](#)

At The Guardian: [Dissent Becomes The Next Victim Of Coronavirus As China Cracks Down](#)

At The Moscow Times: [Coronavirus In Russia: The Latest News](#)

At CBC: [Russia Hadn't Had Any New Coronavirus Cases. Why Is that?](#)

DONALD TRUMP'S ANTI-GLOBALIST RESPONSE TO A GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS



Credit: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds / AFP / Getty

President Trump knows so little about infectious disease that, on Wednesday, during a news conference in which he named [Vice-President Mike Pence](#) as his coronavirus czar, he [acknowledged that he was shocked](#) to learn that influenza kills between roughly thirty to seventy thousand people a year in the United States. Donald Trump may be the most erratic and intemperate man ever to occupy the Presidency, but, when it comes to protecting the public health of Americans, his actions have been unfailingly consistent. Since the day he took office, Trump has worked tirelessly to limit funding, dismantle teams of experts, deny science and interrupt nearly any strategic-planning initiative necessary to defend the country against the type of inevitable biological assault that the nation now faces.

Viruses are infinitely more abundant than humans; they have no interest in politics or geography, nor do they have any respect for Trump's assertions of American exceptionalism or his desire to build walls. Sharply limiting the U.S.'s ability to inhibit the spread of organisms that first appeared on earth at least a billion years ago, and that, collectively, have always presented the most persistent threat to humanity, can most generously be described as an act of radical myopia. (Most estimates suggest that smallpox, the only human virus that we have eradicated, killed up to half a billion people in the twentieth century alone.) [Read More at the New Yorker](#)

See Also:

At WashingtonPost: [Trump's Plan To Plant A Trillion Saplings Misses The Forest For The Trees](#)

Doctors Are Examining The Vaginas Of Unconscious Women Without Their Consent



Credit: Getty Images

An Arizona nurse woke up after surgery to find doctors telling her she had gotten her period. They knew because they had performed an invasive pelvic exam without her permission. Another woman told a hospital that she did not consent to a pelvic exam during routine, non-gynecological surgery. The hospital told her she had to consent to the surgery, and that if she didn't, she should seek care elsewhere.

These incidents are not anomalous. At teaching hospitals across the U.S., students practice pelvic exams by performing them on unconscious women, even when those women do not consent or specifically state that they do not want an exam. Most women never know that they have been violated. But some, like science teacher Sarah Wright, report complications such as pelvic pain.

These exams are not a secret. Unlike some other forms of medical abuse, doctors do not deny performing exams against their patients' will. Instead, they insist that doing so is necessary, and that they should therefore be permitted to ignore informed consent law and assault their patients. In an interview with The New York Times, Dr. Jennifer Goedken, an Emory University physician, expressed concern about banning

the exams, and emphasized the importance of a “good, comfortable exam.”

Even if we disregard more than 100 years of jurisprudence and revoke a woman’s right to informed consent and informed refusal, this defense doesn’t make sense. [Read More at Daily Kos](#)

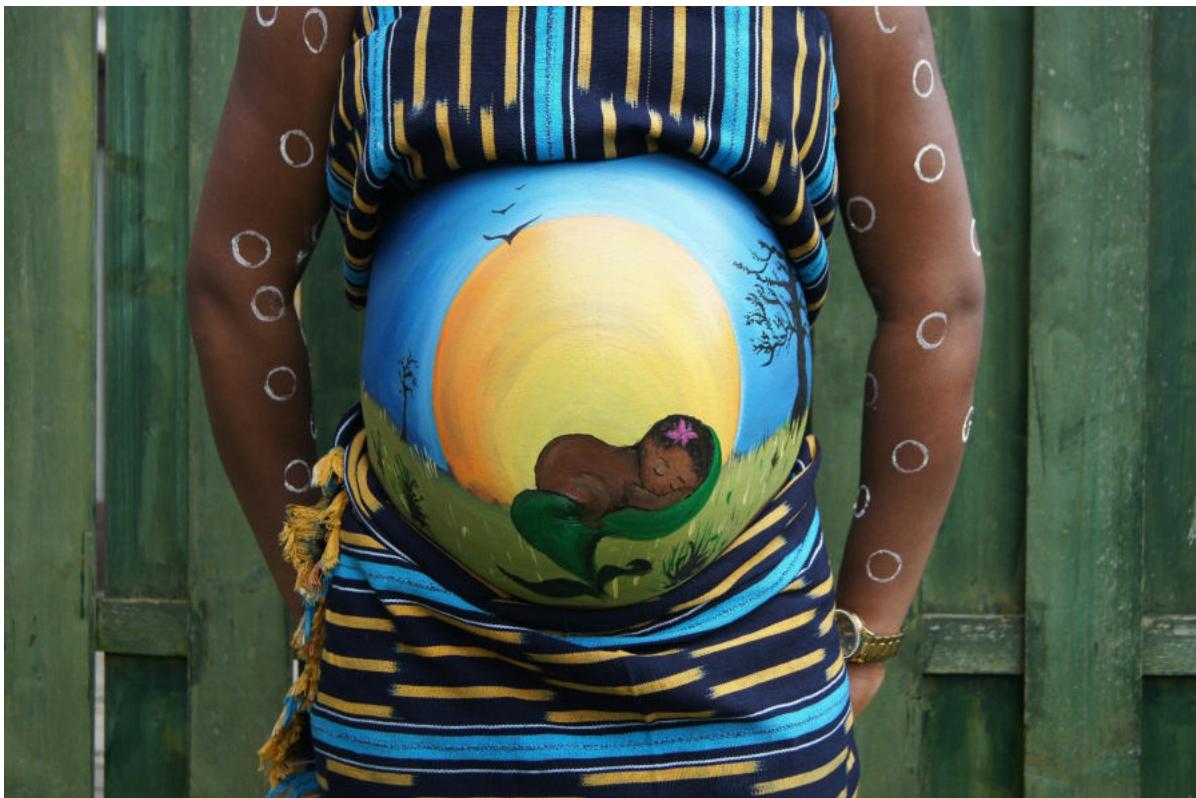
New Lancet Series On The Double Burden Of Malnutrition



Credit: Manifesto on the Double Burden of Malnutrition, cover photo | The Lancet

Globally, estimates suggest that almost 2.3 billion children and adults are overweight, and more than 150 million children are stunted. However, in low- and middle-income countries these emerging issues overlap in individuals, families, communities and countries. The new report explores the trends behind this intersection – known as the double burden of malnutrition – as well as the societal and food system changes that may be causing it, its biological explanation and effects, and policy measures that may help address malnutrition in all its forms. [Read More at NCD Alliance](#).

Social Norms Stop Ethiopian Girls From Making Safe Choices About Pregnancy



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Fears, combined with a lack of access to reliable sexual and reproductive health information, low education rates and the pervasive social norms linking adolescent marriage and early childbirth, are all driving high adolescent fertility rates. Despite progress in reducing the rate of adolescent pregnancy, more than [16 million](#) adolescent girls globally become parents each year. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 90% of these young mothers live in the global South.

Girls in countries with the highest adolescent fertility rates, many of which are in [sub-Saharan Africa](#), are also the most likely to be malnourished without access to quality maternity care or safe abortions. This leads to complications and consequences that can last a lifetime. Maternity is a [leading cause](#) of disability for [girls](#) aged 15-19, according to WHO. [Read More at Medical Xpress](#)

See Also:

At PMNews Nigeria: [UNICEF Says Violence Against Women, Girls Still](#)

Can Ecuador's Native Communities Survive An Oil Rush



Credit: RODRIGO BUENDIA/AFP VIA GETTY

The story of Ecuador's Yasuní National Park is a classic example of how good intentions to protect the environment and the rights of Indigenous people can run aground when they come up against the reality of politics and the interests of big business.

Designated in 1979, the park covers 10,000 square kilometres of primary rainforest on Ecuador's eastern border with Peru. It is one of the most biodiverse spots on the planet, with more than 200 species of mammals, 550 species of birds, 380 species of fish and more than 2,000 types of trees. Jaguars, tapirs and monkeys live in its dense undergrowth, while pink dolphins swim in its rivers.

The park is also home to the Tagaeri and Taromenane, two [fiercely independent tribes](#) that have resisted all attempts to integrate them into modern life.

Unfortunately for them, and for the environment, Yasuní sits on vast deposits of oil — up to 40% of Ecuador's reserves. Even before Yasuní was declared a national park, Texaco had started drilling nearby. These days, state-owned Petroamazonas, Spain's Repsol, Italy's Agip and the China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. (Sinopec) are working in or around Yasuní.

In 2007, Ecuador's government, led by then President Rafael Correa, came up with what seemed like an ingenious plan to protect the eastern reaches of the park, where there are three major oil deposits. Correa said Ecuador would leave the oil in the ground if the international community gave the country \$3.6 billion to compensate it for lost revenue. Environmentalists applauded. [Read More at OZY](#)

WHO Framework Convention On Tobacco Control (FCTC): 15 Years Of Protecting And Saving Lives



Credit: WHO

February 27th marked the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) which came into force in 2005. Watch this video that explains how WHO is working towards a tobacco-free world. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the only international treaty negotiated under the auspices of WHO. It was adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003. It has since become one of the most rapidly and widely embraced treaties within the United Nations.

The aim of the Convention is to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke. For the last 15 years the WHO FCTC has played an important role in curbing the global tobacco epidemic by providing a roadmap for policies and a catalyst for action for stronger tobacco control. There are 181 Parties to the WHO FCTC covering over 90% of the world's population. Nonetheless about 8 million people die every year from tobacco related diseases. [Read More at WHO](#)

MORE GOOD NEWS

Fallout From Coronavirus Outbreak Triggers 25% Decrease In China's Carbon Emissions



Credit: Reuters

In the midst of China's COVID-19 epidemic, the conditions for an unprecedented climate experiment have emerged. Climate researchers can measure in real time what happens to carbon emissions when one of the world's largest economies is suddenly stalled, with entire cities locked down, highways emptied, airplanes grounded, factories shuttered and millions of people confined to their homes.

A continent away, from his base in Helsinki, Finland, Lauri Myllyvirta was able to piece together industry and financial data sources and satellite imagery to calculate the epidemic's impact on emissions: a decrease of about 25% in three weeks. "In terms of the absolute volume of emissions, this is absolutely unprecedented," he said. [Read More at CBC](#)

OPINION

Humanity's Survival On Earth Starts With Having Smaller Families



Credit: Rob Shutterstock

Drive less. Fly less. Eat less meat. These are common prescriptions offered by scientists and environmentalists for reducing our individual carbon footprint to help combat climate change. But there's one recommendation frequently left off that list that would have the greatest impact on mitigating the climate crisis and moving toward the United Nations' sustainable development goals: [have fewer kids](#).

According to a [study](#) conducted by researchers at Lund University in Sweden and the University of British Columbia in Canada, living car-free would reduce your annual carbon emissions by 2.4 metric tons, avoiding airplane travel would reduce those emissions by 1.6 metric tons, and eating a plant-based diet would reduce them by 0.8 metric tons. Having one fewer child, however, outpaces them all—reducing an individual's yearly carbon emissions by nearly [60 metric tons](#). [Read More at The AlterNet](#).

See Also:

At Population Media Center: [Overpopulated Countries Unsustainable Civilization](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

4 Clues To Explain Big Alcohol's Fundamental Conflict Of Interest



Credit: Getty

While 30% of the American population live free from any alcohol consumption and another 30% consume less than one alcoholic drink per week, on average, the top 10% of alcohol users – 24 million adults over age 18 – account for more than 50% of the alcohol consumed in any given year.

Recently, a member of Movendi International sent me a WhatsApp text, saying: "We cannot in any way work with the devil to drive demons out of our homes." It was another example for me that people from different cultures, religions and origins have a profound understanding of and sensitivity to situations of conflicting goals and interests.

In the world of public and global health and development the alcohol industry's conflict of interest is, however, still hiding in plain sight. In general, we observe that recognition is growing of the influence of corporate activity on the health and development of populations. Corporations of substantial size and scope – such as multinational alcohol giants – influence population health and development in many different and interconnected ways, often across national borders. The alcohol industry is a perfect example. [Read More at Movendi](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

Health Officials Identify Two Rare Cases Of Diphtheria In Saskatchewan First Nation



Credit: APTN file

Two rare but potentially deadly cases of diphtheria have been diagnosed in a western Saskatchewan First Nation. They were discovered last month, confirms a letter from Dr. Ibrahim Khan, regional medical health officer for First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. One case was in Onion Lake and the other from the surrounding area.

Health officials in the community near the Saskatchewan-Alberta boundary flagged the bacterial infection immediately after the two patients – one a minor and one an adult – were admitted to medical facilities. Community members are being asked to ensure they are updated on their immunization and booster shots after Khan noted in a letter to Chief Henry Lewis that vaccination rates for diphtheria in Onion Lake “are currently below the 97% target.” [Read More at APTN News](#)



Credit: Amazon Frontliners

Quote Of The Week

"We are the voice of the forest. We demand that the government listen to us and respect us. We continue to resist. Our legal victories are important because they define our future as Indigenous peoples; they are an important tool to guarantee our rights and our physical and cultural survival in our territories."

Alex Lucitante (Kofan leader from the Ecuadorian Amazon) delivering a powerful message outside Ecuador's Supreme Court during a press conference (February, 2020). The Ecuadorian Supreme Court, in November of 2019, turned their victory into national jurisprudence for Indigenous peoples across the country.

For more see: [Amazon Frontliners](#)

Upcoming Events

- March 21st - 24th: [Oxfam Summit And Day Of Action](#) (Ottawa, Canada)
- March 25: [Health In A Changing Climate - Department of Family and Community Medicine, UToronto](#) (Toronto, Canada)
- March 31 - April 2: [World Public Health Nutrition Congress 2020](#) (Brisbane, Australia)
- April 6th -7th, 2020: [17th World Congress on Paediatrics and Neonatology](#) (Tokyo, Japan)
- April 18th -20th, 2020: [CUGH Conference 2020: Global Health in a Time of Worldwide Political Change](#) (Washington, D.C., USA)
- April 24th - 26th, 2020: [PEGASUS IV: Migration - Climate Change - Sustainable Development](#) (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada)
- April 28th - 29th: [Global Health Impact Expo + Exchange](#) (Ottawa, Canada)
- April 28th - 30th: [CPHA's Public Health 2020](#) (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada)
- May 2nd - 4th: [RESULTS CANADA National Conference: From Action to Impact - Working Together to End Extreme Poverty](#) (Ottawa, Canada)
- May 21st - 23rd: [Indigenous Health Conference: Building Our Future](#) (Niagara Falls, Canada)
- November 9th-19th: [2020 UN Climate Change Conference](#) (UNFCCC COP 26) (Glasgow, Scotland)

FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA:

Inuit, Reporters Call Out New

York Times For 'Trauma Porn'

The New York Times

Drawn From Poverty: Art Was Supposed to Save Canada's Inuit. It Hasn't.

Indigenous work is all the rage in the Canadian art world. But life in the North is as much a struggle as ever.



Credit: Screenshot

Many people say that Catherine Porter's article about Cape Dorset, Nunavut, in Canada's far north, perpetuates stereotypes. It's not the first time Indigenous people have been burned by the media. Indigenous people and journalists regularly call out mainstream media for inappropriate wordplay, criminalizing victims and undermining violence against Indigenous people.

Most recently, it was an article about Inuit in Cape Dorset, Nunavut, published in the *New York Times*, entitled "Drawn from Poverty: Art Was Supposed to Save Canada's Inuit. It Hasn't." Many critics have been taking to social media to call out the *New York Times* and the reporter, Catherine Porter, for perpetuating harmful and racist stereotypes about addiction and poverty in what many are calling "trauma porn."

Read more at National Observer

FYI #2

The Oilsands In A Carbon Constrained Canada: The Collision Course Between Overall Emissions And National Climate Commitments



Credit: Jackson Jost

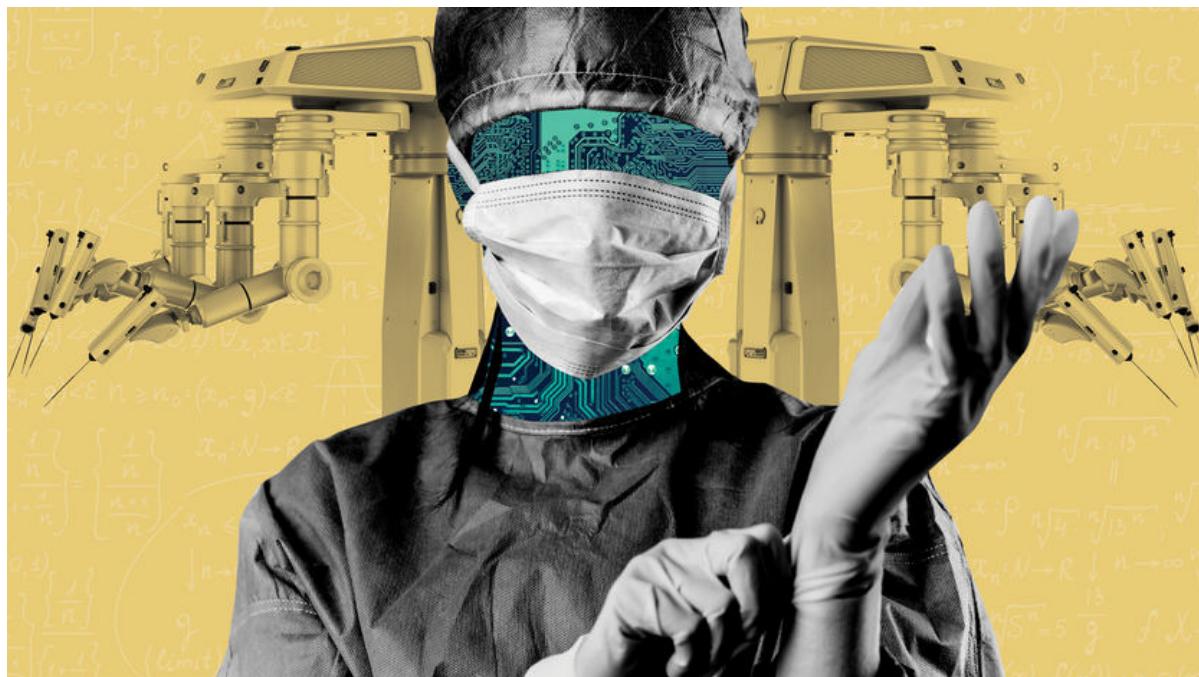
The oil and gas industry has made big contributions to Canadian society: providing jobs, technology and research excellence, while warming homes, fueling cars and powering our electricity grids. Today, the oil and gas sector is facing unprecedented pressures. While dramatic fluctuations in the price of energy commodities are not new, increasing automation, adoption of new disruptive technologies, shifting market demands (particularly today), and climate commitments are reshaping the future of this sector. Business-as-usual no longer applies — significant changes are necessary.

In a continuing effort to depolarize the conversation, this report seeks to help establish a basic, commonly agreed-upon set of facts about Alberta's oilsands, their emissions performance and trajectories, and what Canada's commitment to achieve deep decarbonization will mean for the sector.

Read more at Pembina

FYI #3

Robotic Surgeries Are Finally Set To Get Affordable



Credit: SHUTTERSTOCK, Composite By NED COLIN

Irish surgeon Barry O'Reilly became the first doctor in the British Isles to use a robot to remove a uterus back in 2007. Hysterectomies traditionally require cutting the patient open, which means long recovery times, not to mention health risks. But with the robot, O'Reilly inserted instruments into small keyholes, which he then operated using controls and a camera attached to the robots. The result? A more precise operation and a shorter recovery time.

Such pioneering — O'Reilly has since done many of these procedures — came at a price. A model of that original robot, called Da Vinci, produced by the U.S. company Intuitive Surgical, cost around \$1.6 million at the time. After 10 years, Intuitive stopped servicing the robot, forcing O'Reilly's hospital — Cork University Maternity Hospital — to buy a newer model, at a cost of \$2.2 million.

Intuitive Surgical can do this because it [holds a monopoly on surgical robots](#), based off a range of patents it acquired for its technology, first developed during the '80s and '90s at the California nonprofit research institute SRI International. Some of the technology was developed through research done by the military R&D organization DARPA. But all that's about to change.

[Read more at Ozy](#)

FYI #4

Joint Statement: Put Prevention At The Heart Of Beating Cancer Plan



Credit: Katie Smith

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan needs a thorough prevention pillar to tackle challenges common to all non-communicable diseases (NCDs), reads a statement by 30+ health

organizations. NCDs, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory diseases and diabetes, undermine people's health and well-being, threaten the sustainability of health systems and Europe's economic and social prosperity. Over half a million people under the age of 65 die of NCDs in the EU each year, while up to 80% of healthcare spending goes towards treating chronic diseases.

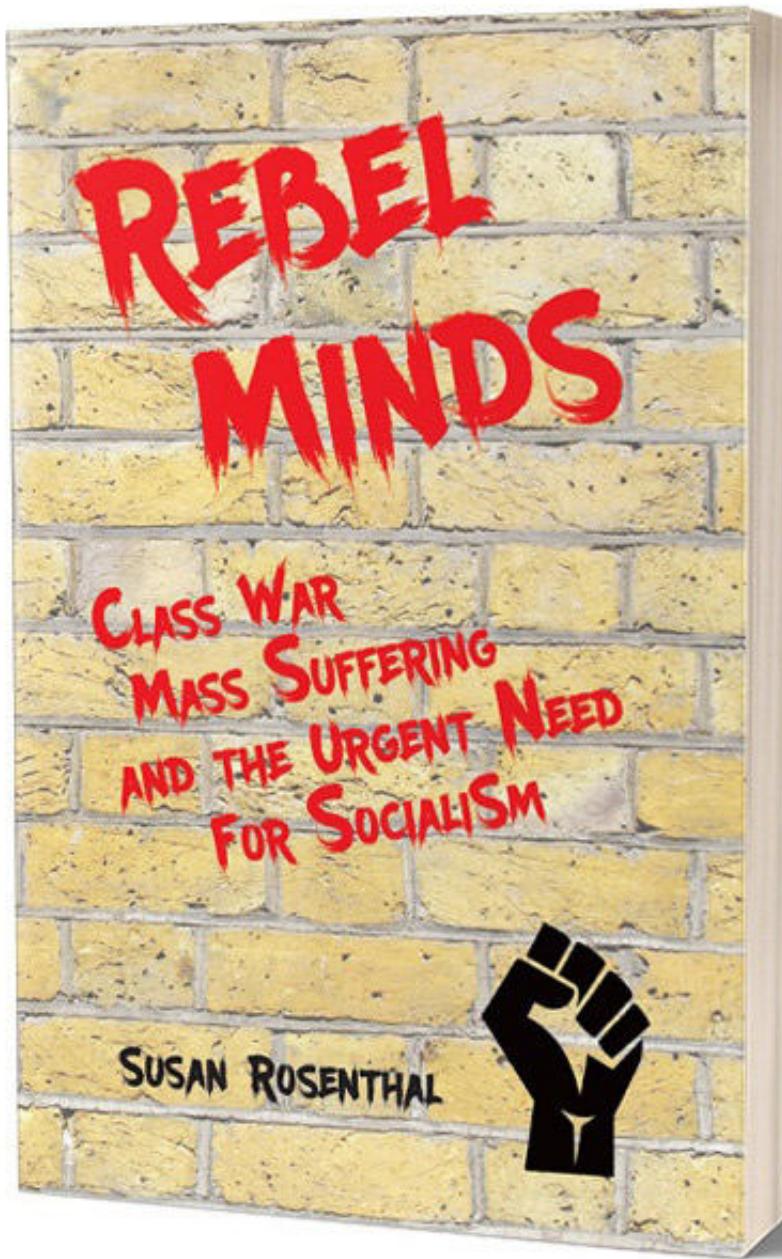
Common causes ask for common solutions. What connects all NCDs is that they are highly preventable, exacerbated by socio-economic inequities and are driven by a number of common, modifiable risk factors – especially related to tobacco and alcohol use, unhealthy food environments, insufficient physical activity and air pollution.

Read more at European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

FYI #5: WINTER READING: NEW BOOK BY SUSAN ROSENTHAL

Rebel Minds: Class War, Mass Suffering, And The Urgent Need For Socialism

Nominated for the
Deutscher Prize



Credit:

Rebel Minds makes a superb case for why failing to imagine the end of capitalism will guarantee the end of the world.

Life should not be so difficult. It is possible, right now, to create a healthful, cooperative and sustainable world. Because that would not be profitable, the capitalist class force us to live in their sickening and unsustainable world. When our minds and bodies protest, they label us as 'deviant' or 'sick.' We are neither. We are suffering. We are rebels.

From Susan Rosenthal:

"Well, I can now say I wrote the book on suffering. There certainly is a lot of suffering in the world today. I don't think anyone would dispute that. While the problems of society can seem overwhelming and impossibly urgent, I want to emphasize that human beings created these problems, and we can also solve them.

How bad is it? After the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Japan, the scientists who developed this weapon created the Doomsday Clock. This clock measures the risk of existential threats to human survival, with midnight signalling our extinction. On a regular basis, scientists gather to assess the risks to human survival and reset the clock. The first setting, in 1947, was seven minutes to midnight. Two years ago, the clock was set at two minutes to midnight and remained there until last month, when it was advanced another 20 seconds. The Doomsday Clock is now set at 100 seconds before midnight, closer than it's ever been. The scientists made this decision not only on the basis of a renewed arms race and climate change, but also because "the means by which political leaders had previously prevented or managed these potentially civilization-ending dangers are themselves being dismantled or undermined. The result is a heightened and growing risk of disaster."

That's pretty darn scary. And it's especially scary for young people, who are inheriting a crisis-ridden world. Treating suffering as a medical problem has proved ineffective. Despite the unprecedented use of psychiatric drugs, rates of mental distress and suicide continue to rise. According to the World Health Organization, 800,000 people kill themselves every year. When one person kills themselves, that is an individual tragedy. When hundreds of thousands of people are killing themselves, that is a mass protest against intolerable conditions."

[Read more on ReMarxpub](#)

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Want To Live Longer? Stay In School



Credit: Vasily Koloda

Life expectancy in the United States has been in decline for the first time in decades, and public health officials have identified a litany of potential causes, including inaccessible health care, rising drug addiction and rates of mental health disorders, and socio-economic factors. But disentangling these variables and assessing their relative impact has been difficult.

Among the 5,114 people followed in this study, 395 died.

"These deaths are occurring in working-age people, often with children, before the age of 60," said Yale's Brita Roy, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology and corresponding author of the paper. The rates of death among individuals in this group did clearly show racial differences, with approximately 9% of blacks dying at an early age compared to 6% of whites. There were also differences in causes of death by race. For instance, black men were significantly more likely to die by homicide and white men from AIDS. The most common causes of death across all groups over time were cardiovascular disease and cancer.

But there were also notable differences in rates of death by education level. Approximately 13% of participants with a high school diploma or less education died compared with only approximately 5% of college graduates.

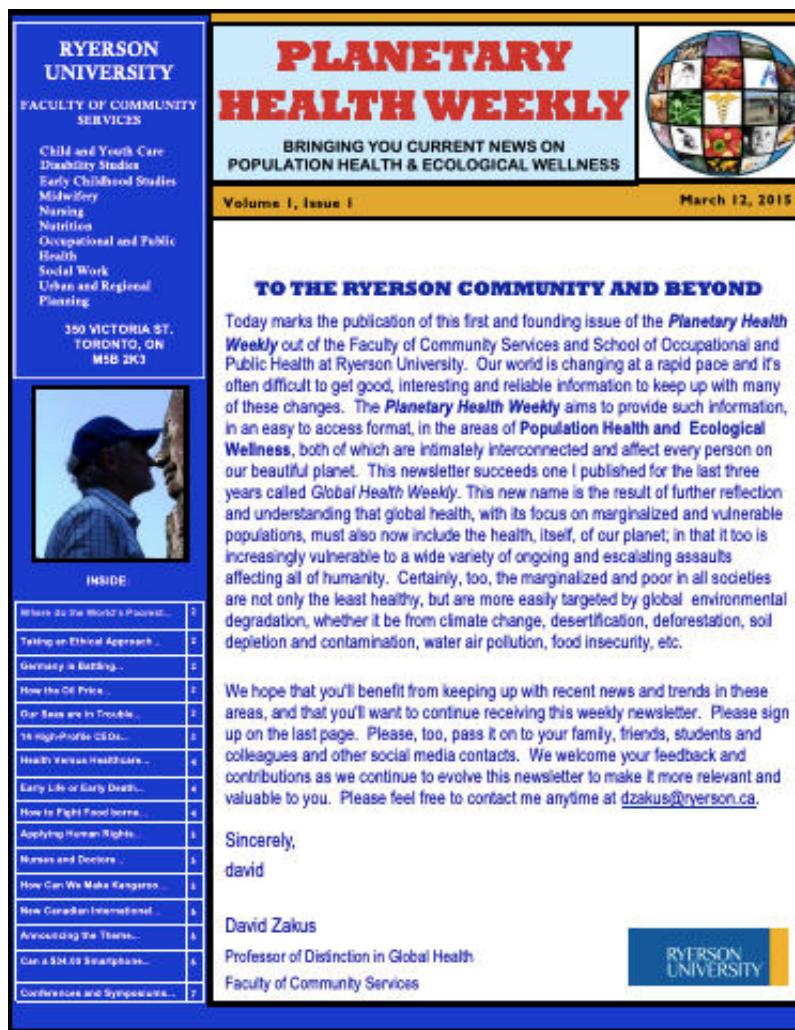
Read more at Science Daily

END SHOTS

"LOOKING BACK FIVE YEARS"

COVER AND A FEW PAGES FROM THE FIRST EDITION OF THE PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

March 12, 2015



RYERSON UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child and Youth Care
Disability Studies
Early Childhood Studies
Midwifery
Nursing
Nutrition
Occupational and Public Health
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350 VICTORIA ST.
TORONTO, ON
M5B 2K3

PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY
BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON
POPULATION HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 12, 2015

TO THE RYERSON COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Today marks the publication of this first and founding issue of the *Planetary Health Weekly* out of the Faculty of Community Services and School of Occupational and Public Health at Ryerson University. Our world is changing at a rapid pace and it's often difficult to get good, interesting and reliable information to keep up with many of these changes. The *Planetary Health Weekly* aims to provide such information, in an easy to access format, in the areas of **Population Health** and **Ecological Wellness**, both of which are intimately interconnected and affect every person on our beautiful planet. This newsletter succeeds one I published for the last three years called *Global Health Weekly*. This new name is the result of further reflection and understanding that global health, with its focus on marginalized and vulnerable populations, must also now include the health, itself, of our planet; in that it too is increasingly vulnerable to a wide variety of ongoing and escalating assaults affecting all of humanity. Certainly, too, the marginalized and poor in all societies are not only the least healthy, but are more easily targeted by global environmental degradation, whether it be from climate change, desertification, deforestation, soil depletion and contamination, water air pollution, food insecurity, etc.

We hope that you'll benefit from keeping up with recent news and trends in these areas, and that you'll want to continue receiving this weekly newsletter. Please sign up on the last page. Please, too, pass it on to your family, friends, students and colleagues and other social media contacts. We welcome your feedback and contributions as we continue to evolve this newsletter to make it more relevant and valuable to you. Please feel free to contact me anytime at dzakus@ryerson.ca.

Sincerely,
david

David Zakus
Professor of Distinction in Global Health
Faculty of Community Services

RYERSON UNIVERSITY

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New Canadian International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy

The Civil Society Partnership Policy sets out for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFAIT) Canada's approach to enhancing effective development and humanitarian cooperation with international, Canadian, and developing country [civil society organizations](#) (CSOs). The Policy outlines the guiding principles for and overall objectives of Canada's development cooperation engagement with CSOs in alleviating poverty and [humanitarian assistance](#). Given that the context for engagement matters, the Policy is not prescriptive in nature.



See: <http://www.international.gc.ca/development-development/cs-policy-politique-sc.aspx?lang=eng>

Taking an Ethical Approach to University Internationalization

While much has been written, discussed and debated on what constitutes internationalization, it is generally accepted to be the process of integrating international, intercultural and global dimensions and perspectives into the purpose, functions and delivery of education, and such it impacts upon the entire educational enterprise. Additionally internationalization aims to educate students to become global citizens with attributes such as openness to and understanding of other worldviews, empathy for people with different backgrounds and experience to one's own, the capacity to value diversity, and respect for indigenous peoples and knowledge.



See: <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/in-my-opinion/taking-an-ethical-approach-internationalization/>

Germany is Battling a Measles Outbreak that is 10 Times Worse than the One in North America

Canada and the United States have been shocked by a surge in measles cases with more than 100 [incidents](#) in January alone. This, however, is much less worrisome than a current outbreak in Germany.



While authorities there had hoped to completely eliminate the disease this year, 254 [new cases](#) emerged in January, primarily in Berlin. If we consider that the German population is only one fourth of the United States', the German measles surge was about 10 times worse than the one in the United States in January, relative to the total population.

See: http://worldnews.com/article/248644926/326kFZTq8TQqW_H

Applying Human Rights to Maternal Child Health



It is a global scandal that an estimated 287 000 women and girls continue to die each year of maternal causes, and between 10 and 15 million more suffer debilitating complications annually. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that as much as 98% of maternal mortality is preventable, and human rights advocates have long insisted that failures to prevent the grave suffering wrought by maternal mortality and morbidity (MMM) constitute breaches of States' human rights obligations.

See: http://papers.ssm.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2262466

Nurses and Doctors in a Globalized Context

Hanna Wafula lives in a small village in Zambia. She is 50 years old and lives with her husband and four grandchildren. Three of her six children have died: two when they were very young, and one last year at the age of 30. She notices that the doctor in the nearest health centre is rarely present. On the radio she heard that the government plans to spend more money on health care, but she has not seen any effects of increased spending yet. When she goes to the health facility, there is absolutely no guarantee there is a doctor or nurse to attend to her. The shortage of health personnel seriously impacts Hanna's life. Should she be in need of medical care there might not be a health worker available to treat her or her family.¹



See: <http://www.medicusmundi.org/en/contributions/reports/2014/nurses-and-doctors-in-a-globalized-context>

How Can We Make Kangaroo Mother Care Easier for Mothers?



Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is one of the most promising ways to save [preterm](#) and low birth weight babies in high- and low-income settings alike. This form of care, initiated in hospitals, involves teaching mothers and other caregivers how to keep newborns warm through continuous skin-to-skin contact on the mother's chest. KMC has been shown to prevent infections, promote breastfeeding, regulate the baby's temperature, breathing, and brain activity, and encourages mother and baby bonding.

See: <http://www.healthynetworknetwork.org/bozis/kangaroo-mother-care-kmc>

Can the Oil Price Collapse Deliver a Boost to the Green Economy Needs?

Carbon Tracker Initiative's Anthony Hobley argues that far from being a disaster for clean tech, low oil prices could aid decarbonisation efforts. The collapsing oil price to a new low of \$45 a barrel, its lowest for six years, presents major opportunities for the green economy and the climate movement as a whole, but challenges too.

As *BusinessGreen's* James Murray argued last week, some of these challenges are significant. But it is important to recognize there are also sizable opportunities that come with low oil prices.

See: http://m.businessgreen.com/bpl/1016666/how-the-oil-price-collapse-can-deliver-the-boost-the-green-economy-needs?utm_term=.4u1m_wm1w1How%20the%20oil%20price%20collapse%20can%20



Our Seas are in Trouble: 20-25% of Well-Known Species Risk Extinction

Overfishing, pollution, climate change and destruction of habitats like coral reefs are all putting our seas in trouble but academics fear the risk is not being taken as seriously as concerns for the loss of animals and plants which live on land, experts say. Using the most comprehensive conservation data available for both marine and non-marine organisms, new research has shown that 20 to 25 per cent of the well-known species living in our seas are now threatened with extinction – the same figure as land living plants and animals.

See: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150129125544.htm>



14 High-Profile CEOs Want To Rid the Global Economy of Carbon Emissions by 2050

Fourteen high-profile business leaders and CEOs are calling on international leaders to agree to a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions worldwide by 2050, arguing the ambitious goal would lead to "new jobs, cleaner air, better health, lower poverty and greater energy security."

Led by high-profile billionaire and [Virgin](#) founder Richard Branson, the [B Team](#) which includes Huffington Post Media Group President Arianna Huffington, U.N. Foundation CEO Kathy Calvin, and Unilever CEO Paul Polman — directed their message at the 196 nations that are expected to meet at the Paris climate talks at the end of the year.



See: <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/02/06/3619380/ceos-are-important-people/>

CONFERENCES &



SYMPPOSIUMS

Date	Conference	Location	Registration Site
Mar. 21-24, 2015	Superbugs & Super Drugs Event	London, UK	http://events.eventbrite.com/10000247286/superbugs-super-drugs
Mar. 26-28, 2015	6th Annual CUGH Conference	Boston, MA	http://www.eventbrite.com/2015-03-26-6th-annual-cugh-conference
Mar. 28-29, 2015	12th Annual Global Health & Innovation Conference	New Haven, Connecticut, US	http://www.uchildren.org/conference/
June 29-July, 2015	4th Annual Global Healthcare Conference (GHC 2015)	Singapore, Singapore	http://events.eventbrite.com/10000247162/4th-annual-global-healthcare-conference-2015
Aug. 10-12, 2015	The Global Forum for Research and Innovation for Health 2015	Manila, Philippines	http://events.eventbrite.com/10000247162/the-global-forum-for-research-and-innovation-for-health-2015

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.

Nelson Mandela (1918-2013)
Honorary Ryerson Doctorate (2001)



Planetary Health Weekly

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Editor: Dr. David Zakus (dzakus@ryerson.ca)
Production Manager: Sheila Jones

Above picture: "Community from the Roots Up"
Collaborating Artists: Garry Wood, Hamid Eshetar, Sue Cohen and Francesca Nocera





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D&D Education Services, Inc.

49 Beresford Avenue, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada M6S 3A9

Publisher and Editor: Dr. David Zakus
david.zakus@utoronto.ca

Production: Aisha Saleem & Eunice Anteh
Social Media: Evans Oppong

Website and Advisory: Gaël Chetaille & Dr. Aimée-
Angélique Bouka

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