

Plenary Speakers

Leanne Boyd

Director, Policy Development, Research and Evaluation, Healthy Child Manitoba Office

Innovative Evidence-Based Horizontal Policymaking: The Healthy Child Manitoba Strategy



Leanne Boyd is the Director of Policy Development, Research and Evaluation, Healthy Child Manitoba Office (HCMO), the secretariat of the Government of Manitoba's Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet (HCCC) - the only legislated Cabinet committee in Canada dedicated to the well-being of children and youth (prenatal to adulthood).

Leanne helped create HCCC, HCMO and Healthy Child Manitoba Act (HCMA), which facilitate innovative horizontal policymaking and generate evidence-based approaches to improve outcomes for children and youth. HCMO works cross-departmentally/sectorally with community stakeholders, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, and academia, through integrated research, child-centred public policy, practice, and evaluation to facilitate best possible outcomes for children, youth, families and communities.

HCMO integrates research and develops, funds and evaluates innovative policy initiatives, prototypes and longitudinal studies. The HCMA mandates the collection and linkage of identifiable data; the resultant evidence base is utilized to implement and fund equitable public policies that improve life course trajectories for all of Manitoba's children/ youth.

David Butler-Jones

Senior Medical Officer and Atlantic Region Public Health Specialist, FNIH, Health Canada ; Former Chief Public Health Officer, PHAC; MD MHSc LLD(hc) CCFP FRCPC FACPM

Challenges and opportunities in Atlantic Canada!



Dr. David Butler-Jones was the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and Deputy Minister for the Public Health Agency of Canada from 2004 to 2014. He was the first person to hold this office. He has worked in many parts of Canada in both Public Health and Clinical Medicine.

He has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has been actively involved as a researcher and consultant in public health issues. He is a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, as well as a Clinical Professor with the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine.

From 1995 to 2002, Dr. Butler-Jones was Chief Medical Health Officer and Executive Director of the Population Health and Primary Health Services Branches for the Province of Saskatchewan.

In professional organizations, he has served as President of the Canadian Public Health Association; Vice President of the American Public Health Association; Chair of the Canadian Roundtable on Health and Climate Change; International Regent on the board of the American College of Preventive Medicine; Member of the Governing Council for the Canadian Population Health Initiative; Chair of the National Coalition on Enhancing Preventive Practices of Health Professionals; and Co-Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century.

He is a member of the board of Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada He has received honorary degrees (LLD) from Carleton University (Ottawa) and York University (Toronto). He is also recipient of: the Canadian Public Health Association R D Defries Award, its highest honour; The College of Family Physicians, ScotiaBank Family Medicine Lectureship; and the Medal of Service, from The Canadian Medical Association for, “his outstanding and exceptional contribution to health care in Canada”.

Dr. Butler-Jones also serves currently as Senior Medical Officer and Atlantic Region Medical Officer for the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada.

Maureen McDonald

M.Ed, Manager, Health Nexus Health Promotion Team

Mapping Our Networks: Leveraging networks to take action in addressing the complexity of child, youth and family health



Maureen is Manager of the health promotion team at Health Nexus, an innovative organization with a focus on community capacity building, leadership and information exchange within the field of prevention and health promotion. Throughout her 25 year career she has spearheaded a variety of community and health initiatives that support early identification, coordination and integration of services to address the complexity of child, youth and family health and social support needs. She promotes healthy communities through the cultivation and development of multi-sectorial services, systems and networks and combines her background in child development, adult education and community development to promote innovative and responsive solutions to address the upstream health needs of diverse populations.

Amy Parsons

Instructor, Moksha Yoga Charlottetown

Energizing Moments: Making the mind-body connection for positive mental health!

Amy Parsons has been teaching yoga to all ages for 7 years. Although most of her teaching has been studio based, Amy has brought her teaching to several Island schools through volunteering. Amy has several years of experience working with children of all ages through her work in group homes, children's camps and detention centres. She has a Bachelor of Recreation Management from Acadia University, and also has a successful photography business here on PEI. Amy has sent first-hand the importance of yoga, breath, and recreation in promoting mental and physical health.

Instructor, Moksha Yoga Charlottetown

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Patsy Beattie-Huggan

President, The Quaich Inc.; ASI Coordinator

Patsy Beattie-Huggan, BN, MScN is the founder and President of The Quaich Inc., a PEI based health promotion and consulting company that provides innovative, client-centred, and comprehensive services across a diversity of sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Nursing from the University of New Brunswick and a MSc in Nursing and Health Studies from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Patsy has a broad background in nursing education and health system redesign, and is firmly committed to building capacity within communities. Her creative work in health promotion, including leadership to the development of the Circle of Health, has been widely recognized. She has served as consultant to many provincial, national and international breast cancer projects, and has been instrumental in the delivery of the Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities. Patsy's commitment to contributing to the evolution of caring, compassionate communities has led her to explore innovative and collaborative approaches to working with organizations.

