



THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIOSTATISTICS AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, - SEMINAR SERIES IS A SELF-APPROVED GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITY (SECTION 1) AS DEFINED BY THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA

SPECIAL SEMINAR

PAUL J. VILLENEUVE, PhD

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***More Than A Walk In The Park: How Access To Nature
Impacts The Health Of Canadian Urbanites***

**TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2018 / 11:30am – 12:30pm
Purvis Hall**

1020 Pine Avenue West—Room 24

ALL ARE WELCOME

ABSTRACT:

Over half of the world’s population lives in cities, and this proportion continues to increase. Canada is no exception to this trend, and at this time, more than 80% of its residents live in cities. The design of Canadian cities has also changed over time, and impervious surfaces such as roadways, parking lots and roof tops account for a larger amount of space. Environmental exposures influenced by features of the built environment are recognized to impact human health, and over the past decade there has been an emerging interest in understanding how interactions with nature can improve population health. A series of epidemiological studies suggest that access to parks, green spaces and other natural spaces can improve physical and mental health. Dr. Villeneuve will describe findings from a series of studies that he has led that have shown benefits from increased access to natural spaces across for a diverse set of health conditions. This presentation will

also describe some of innovative methods for characterizing natural environments across Canadian cities, and existing datasets that can be readily linked to epidemiological studies. The presentation will conclude with an outline for future planned studies in this area, and the implications for environmental public health policy.

OBJECTIVES

1. Be able to describe and understand the different pathways whereby access to nature in urban area impacts population health;
2. Understand the challenges in characterizing exposure to natural spaces in urban areas, and to have an awareness of the current and novel methods to estimate these exposures;
3. Be informed of findings from several recent Canadian epidemiological studies, and identify priorities for further research.

BIO:

Professor Villeneuve received his Bachelors of Mathematics degree in Statistics from the University of Waterloo, and his MSc and PhD degrees in epidemiology from the University of Ottawa, and Toronto, respectively. He was a senior research scientist in the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch of Health Canada for approximately 10 years, before joining the newly formed Department of Health Sciences at Carleton University in 2013. He was accredited as a Professional Statistician by the Statistical Society of Canada in 2006, and is an Affiliate Scientist of the Ontario Occupational Cancer Research Centre that is based in Toronto. His research interests span a wide array of topics in occupational and environmental health. He has approximately 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications and his research has been presented at numerous national and international meetings. For more info please visit: <https://carleton.ca/eoel/>