

In this session participants will be provided a theoretical understanding of research findings on the built environment and health as well as a practical framework on how health units can move from “vision to reality” in building healthier communities in both urban and rural settings. Participants will learn about the connection between public health and the built environment so that they can understand the role the built environment plays in what they do and vice versa.



Larry is the appointed J. Armand Bombardier Chairholder in Sustainable Transportation at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in the School of Community and Regional Planning and Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. He specializes in the interaction between land use, travel behaviour, air quality, and health. He has co-authored two books in the past year on these topics: *Health and Community Design*, *The Impacts of The Built Environment on Physical Activity* and *Urban Sprawl and Public Health*, both of which are published by Island Press (www.islandpress.org).

The American Journal of Preventive Medicine published his study, *Obesity Relationships with Community Design, Physical Activity, and Time Spent in Cars*, which documented for the first time relationships between travel habits, neighbourhood design characteristics, and the odds of being obese. This study was featured in Time Magazine, on CNN, ABC news, and over 200 media outlets worldwide. Larry recently completed a 5 year \$4.6 million research program funded by the US Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia DOT, and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority known as SMARTRAQ. This study tested the effects of land use and transportation decisions on travel choices, physical activity, and air quality.

Currently, he is working to establish a program through the Bombardier Lab at UBC that engages local agencies on similar issues of transportation, the environment, and health in the Vancouver region.