



## December 2020 Newsletter

Happy holidays from all of us at the Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative! Thank you to all those who have supported our work during this year of challenges, and a big thank you to all our local partners for their tireless work in support of our community.

If you have questions, would like to share ideas, or are interested in partnering with or joining our team, please email us at [ask.khrc@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.khrc@ubc.ca) – we look forward to connecting with you! You can also check out our [website](#) for more information on our work. If you aren't already on our mailing list, subscribe now and you'll receive periodic updates on our activities, research opportunities, and events!

**Follow us on social media for more regular updates on our activities as well as other items from the community, or homelessness broadly!**



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## Homelessness Vulnerabilities

KHRC would like to thank all those who participated in our October 20<sup>th</sup> event (*Homelessness Vulnerabilities and Potential Mitigating Supports: Establishing Research Opportunities*). A series of conversations factors that influence vulnerability at an individual, system, and societal level identified both a widespread interest in participating in collaborative research as well as a collection of potential community-based projects to promote understanding and addressing these factors.

- [\*Report B: Community Connection and Future Research Session \(Nov 29 2020\)\*](#)
- [\*Designing Online Focus Groups: Learnings from the Study \(Nov 29 2020\)\*](#)

If your organisation has any interest or questions on research opportunities in the local community, feel free to contact us at [ask.khrc@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.khrc@ubc.ca)

“This project was an important community experiment. It demonstrated that the research process and distribution of results can be made accessible to a diverse range of individuals in a wide variety of ways. It showed that individuals from the community, service providers, students and researchers can connect in authentic ways to create meaningful contributions to research.”

## KHRC Investigators win North American Case Conference Gold

Congratulations to KHRC researchers Kerry Rempel and Dr. Kyleen Myrah for their amazing Case Conference gold medal for their case: “Change in the time of COVID: Determining How a Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness Adapts Their Team Development Model”.

The value of Lived Experience in advancing Kelowna’s response to COVID-19 was also featured in an October blog post by the [Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness](#).

Our valued co-Researchers Sherry W. Landry and Dorothy Goodeye also contributed valued Lived Experience perspectives in informing our discussions this year on Homelessness Vulnerabilities.

- [Report A: Focus Group Findings \(Aug 25 2020\)](#)



[Read more about the NACRA Case Conference win!](#)

## Allyship in Research

Congratulations to KHRC’s Dr. Kyleen Myrah, who recently received funding through Enactus Canada in partnership with the John Dobson Foundation Faculty Advisor Research Grant for her project titled: “Creating Allyship in Research”.

The proposed research project aims to chronicle the perspectives and strategies, from a lived experience lens, of how to genuinely integrate their ideas, perspectives and voice into the research process. Through the Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative (KHRC), lived experience involvement is being piloted as a co-researcher strategy from the Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness (LECoH) group based in Kelowna, BC. Homelessness is the lived experience context in this study, but its learnings can be applied to other lived experience scenarios (for example, lived experience of mental health, lived experience of violence, lived experience of poverty, lived experience of racism).

For more information on our ongoing projects, check out our [website](#).

## HEADS UP! Community Mental Health Summit

On November 26th, KHRC’s Dr. John Graham had the pleasure of participating in the Fresh Outlook Foundation’s virtual summit on mental health. A series of presentations and panel discussions were held on the topic of ***Finding Integrated Solutions for Substance Use & Homelessness***, featuring a variety of local experts, providers, and stakeholders. Discussions included a presentation on ***Pioneering a Coordinated & Accessible System of Care*** and a panel discussion on ***Integrated Community Solutions***.

For more information on the Fresh Outlook Foundation and their activities, check out their [website](#)!

# Responding to Pandemics

Like many challenges faced by organisations that serve vulnerable populations, responding to pandemics in the support sector requires leveraging limited resources to produce maximal impact for service recipients. This summer, KHRC began a series of projects geared towards identifying and summarizing available peer-reviewed evidence related to pandemic response for two populations: **1) those experiencing homelessness, and 2) prison populations.** As these projects advance, we will post relevant summaries on our website (<https://khrc.ok.ubc.ca/resources/>) to inform the current response to COVID-19 as well as to inform future public health planning.

## **Homeless Hub:**

- [Reports on COVID-19](#)
- [Learning Hub Resources](#)

## **Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness:**

- [A Pandemic Response and Recovery Toolkit for Homeless System Leaders in Canada](#)
- [Recover for All: Proposals to Strengthen the National Housing Strategy and End Homelessness](#)

## The Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a profound effect on many aspects of everyday life. As we move through (and past) this public health challenge, some shifts will undoubtedly subside, others will grow, and new shifts will emerge. To contextualize our understanding of our research topics, we've conducted a preliminary scan of current and long-term social, economic, and political impacts. This adds to the many other discussions of such topics, and we expect sustained reflection in the years to come. We expect that these medium- and long-term trends will have both sustained and variable effects on research, policy, and practice to some extent across topic areas and academic disciplines.

The draft fact sheet and other summaries will be available on our [resources page](#).

Social	•How has COVID-19 affected our physical and mental health? What have other impacts been for individuals and families? Have challenges been experienced equally across / within nations?
Economic	•How has COVID-19 impacted trade, financial systems and individual livelihoods? How has this contributed to prior trends in inequalities?
Political	•How has / will COVID-19 impact global and national politics? Are politics shifting to to points of consensus or to polarization?

For further reading, Policy Options offers several focused series on policy and COVID-19:

- [Addressing Vulnerabilities for a More Equitable Pandemic Response](#)
- [Building a More Inclusive Innovation Economy After the Pandemic](#)
- [Tackling Inequality as Part of Canada's Post-Pandemic Recovery](#)

For general plain language information, note that [Wikipedia](#) has been working to index all contributions related to the impact of COVID-19.

## December Reading List

<b>Indigenous</b>	<p><a href="#">Revisioning Coordinated Access: Fostering Indigenous Best Practices Towards a Wholistic Systems Approach to Homelessness</a> Report: <i>Ecker et al., 2020 (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton)</i></p> <p><a href="#">Understanding Homelessness for Urban Indigenous Families: How Can We Envision Gendered and Culturally Safe Responses</a> Report: <i>Rodrigues et al. 2020 (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness)</i></p>
<b>Seniors</b>	<p><a href="#">Homelessness Among Older Adults: An Emerging Crisis</a> Article: <i>Kushel, 2020 (American Society on Ageing)</i></p> <p><a href="#">Cognition, Health, and Social Support of Formerly Homeless Older Adults in Permanent Supportive Housing</a> Article: <i>Souza et al., 2020</i></p>
<b>Rural</b>	<p><a href="#">COVID-19 and pandemic planning in the context of rural and remote homelessness</a> Article: <i>Schiff et al., 2020</i></p> <p><a href="#">Lost in Transition: Entering the Liminal Space of Rural Homelessness in a Small Prairie Town</a> Article: <i>Pijl &amp; Belanger, 2020</i></p>
<b>Youth</b>	<p><a href="#">Transition Supports to Prevent Homelessness for Youth Leaving Out-of-Home Care</a> Report: <i>Sewchuk, 2020 (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and A Way Home Canada)</i></p> <p><a href="#">Responding to Youth Homelessness during COVID-19 and Beyond</a> Report: <i>Buchnea &amp; McKitterick, 2020 (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and A Way Home Canada, 2020)</i></p>



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