

The Summer Institute on Sustainable Health Systems

Climate and environmental change pose an accelerating and complex threat to 21st-century health systems. There is an urgent need for transformative change to reduce our health systems' contribution to global carbon emissions and to adapt to the health, health equity and health system impacts of climate change. Despite this need, few of the relevant graduate programs or health care professional programs equip students with the knowledge and skills required to lead, manage, analyze, inform, or deliver sustainable health systems.

The Summer Institute on Sustainable Health Systems was created to fill this gap and provide health services and policy trainees with the opportunity to increase awareness of sustainable health systems and current action in Canada.

Through guided learning activities, meetings with local sustainability leaders and nation-wide panel discussions, the Summer Institute aimed to develop trainee knowledge, leadership skills and capabilities, and build professional, interdisciplinary networks of trainees and professionals with interests in sustainable health systems.

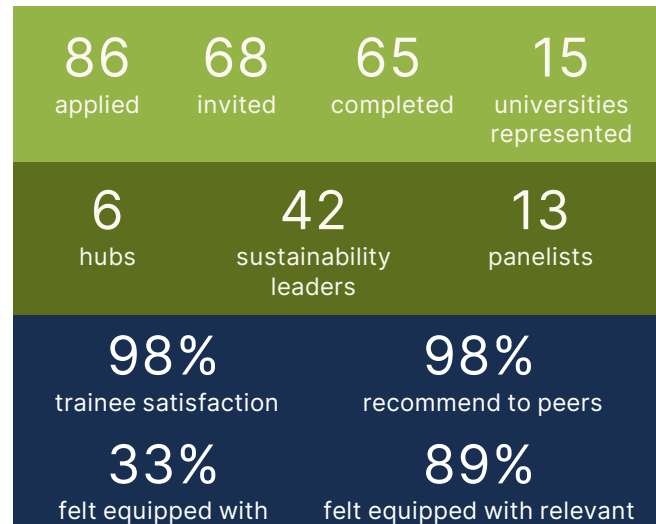
The Institute drew health services and policy trainees currently enrolled in or 2022 graduates from Canadian Master's, PhD, professional, or post-doctoral fellowship programs in disciplines including health services and policy research, public health, health management, medicine, and allied health.

The distribution of hubs at five university locations, in addition to the virtual option, allowed for trainees at universities across Canada to attend the Summer Institute. In-person hubs were located in:

- Vancouver (University of British Columbia)
- Toronto (University of Toronto St. George Campus)
- Ottawa (University of Ottawa)
- Montréal (Université de Montréal)
- Halifax (Dalhousie University)

"I have gained opportunities to network with faculty level sustainability leads as well as other amazing trainees doing incredible work. This has led to new relationships and collaborations as I move into a new career path." - Trainee

By the numbers:



"Prior to the institute, I engaged in self-directed learning on environmentalism more generally but was unaware of the work that has been done to date on sustainable health systems." - Trainee

The Summer Institute would not have been as successful without the support of our partner organizations:

- Emerging Leaders for Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare (ELESH)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (CIHR-IHSPR)
- University of British Columbia, Planetary Healthcare Lab
- Dalhousie University, Healthy Populations Institute (HPI)
- Dalhousie University, Faculty of Medicine, Global Health Office
- University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH)
- Université de Montréal, Centre de recherche en santé publique (CRéSP)
- University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine

If you would like more information about the Summer Institute, please contact the organizing committee at CASCADES@utoronto.ca.