



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



COLLABORATIVE CENTRE FOR
Climate, Health +
Sustainable Care

May 2025. Interim Report.

1.5 Years of the Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care

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About the Collaborative Centre

The Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care is a multi-faculty academic unit at the University of Toronto. Launched in November 2023, the Collaborative Centre is an initiative of four faculties: the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, - with the ambition to elevate awareness and engagement across disciplines, professions, and knowledge systems; to strengthen and support cross-fertilization between research, education and practice and policy change; and to achieve impact at the speed and scale required to meet the transformative challenges posed by climate change and the demands of sustainability.

The Collaborative Centre's purpose is to catalyze climate & sustainability action for health & health systems through research, education, and practice & policy change.

Many faculty, students, trainees, and health sector partners have developed expertise and efforts on climate, environment, and sustainability in health and health systems. This work has made the creation of the Collaborative Centre possible, provides extraordinary capacities, and sets us apart.

The Collaborative Centre was launched in recognition of the need for a centre of excellence to catalyze climate & sustainability action for health & health systems. We do this through our interdependent strategic priorities:

- **Research:** Shaping the future of climate, environment, and sustainability research in the health sciences
- **Education:** Equipping learners to understand and act on the health and health system challenges of climate & environmental change
- **Practice & Policy Change:** Strengthening ambition for practice & policy change to promote health & health system sustainability

The Collaborative Centre aims to be the focal point at the University of Toronto and the academic health science community for work on climate, sustainability & health – within and beyond healthcare. We act as a network of networks, connecting with diverse partners, fostering collaboration, and mobilizing knowledge for impact.

We welcome the participation of faculty, students, trainees, and professionals with an interest in these issues to engage with our work. Sign up for our newsletter and become a member.

April 30, 2025

We are very proud to share the progress of the Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care over the last 1.5 years. In collaboration with our strong and growing community of members and partners, we have accomplished a lot.

Key highlights:

- **Network Building:** We have a network of almost 100 members across eight faculties and continue to expand. To grow our outreach, we have been presenting to faculty councils and department meetings.
- **Engagement & Knowledge Mobilization:** Since launch, our events have engaged over 2000 people, in collaboration with 15 partners. In 2024, we hosted our first Annual Symposium, which drew a crowd that exceeded venue capacity at the Faculty Club and received very positive feedback from attendees. This year, we will be hosting our second Annual Symposium on October 30th, at UofT Hart House, which will allow for a greater number of attendees. We have also hosted numerous relevant workshops and seminars.
- **Education:** The launch of our Student Training Program received almost 100 applications, and our first cohort is an actively engaged and multidisciplinary group of students. We have also launched the Planetary Health & Sustainable Care ECHO, run by CASCADES as a collaborative space for people in the Canadian healthcare sector to discuss and troubleshoot providing climate-resilient and sustainable care.
- **Advancement:** We received a gift from the Temerty Foundation, which is allowing us to expand our programs and support for students and trainees. As a result, we have launched a PhD Graduate Fellowship, along with a refined version of the Student Training Program for a second cohort with capacity for more students. We are also designing Student Awards, which will be announced at the 2025 Symposium.
- **Research:** We have developed four research clusters to facilitate research connections and innovation among members in areas where there is expertise and interest. In 2024, five of our members received Seed Grants to facilitate research. In 2025, facilitated by the Temerty Foundation gift, we launched a Summer Student Funding program to offer students summer research opportunities and members with student support for their work. We have also started a Journal Club, bringing together students and other members monthly to critically review and discuss publications and works in progress.
- **Policy & Practice Change:** The Collaborative Centre continues to facilitate CASCADES and the TAHSN Sustainable Health System Community of Practice, and their various activities. Of note, the Community of Practice has launched its first TAHSN Climate & Sustainability Report, which summarizes the Sustainability Balanced Scorecard results from 2024.

Please find enclosed an interim report with a set of tables from our performance monitoring framework. We will prepare a full annual report for 2024/2025 in November.

Community & Capacity Development

Membership

- We developed a membership program and since launch, have grown to 99 individuals from across 8 faculties, including Public Health (34), Medicine (35), Pharmacy (9), Nursing (11), Kinesiology (1), Arts & Science (4), Engineering (4), and UTSC (1).
- Members are engaged in research clusters, planning committees and scientific review for our programs, and our events.

To date:

- 99 Members
 - 65 Faculty Fellows
 - 12 Professional Fellows
 - 3 Research Fellows
 - 19 Student Fellows
- 11 Member snapshots included in the [2023/2024 Annual Report](#)

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Continuing to expand and engage membership
- Developing an awards program for announcement at the 2025 Symposium, which will include awards for member and student leadership

Communications

- We developed a high-quality, low-cost and user-friendly website, which includes a member directory, events calendar, news section, and initiatives directory.
- We send out a bi-monthly newsletter, regularly post updates on our LinkedIn page, and share seminar recordings on our YouTube channel.

To date:

- 24 Newsletter issues
- 1193 Subscribers (398 newsletter subscribers, 795 LinkedIn followers)

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Increasing newsletters from once to twice per month due to increasing volume and frequency of content from us and our members
- Increasing frequency of LinkedIn posts due to increasing volume of content and impressions on posts

Community & Capacity Development

Operations

- We consulted our community and launched our first Strategic Plan (2023-2028), followed by our first Annual Report (2023-2024).
 - In terms of staff, the Managing Director was already in place and Administrative Coordinator was onboarded as new team member. We also continue to leverage meaningful support from CASCADES.
 - We have appointed two of the three Associate Directors.
 - We developed a Sponsorship & Industry Engagement Policy to guide financial support and sponsorship of the Collaborative Centre's activities, as well as Members' use of their affiliation with the Collaborative Centre in activities sponsored by commercial entities.
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To date:

- 1 Director
- 2 Associate Directors (Medicine, Nursing)
- 2 Full-time staff

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Received a gift from the Temerty Foundation to support students and trainees, which is being leveraged to offer Summer Student Funding, PhD Graduate Fellowships, and Student Awards (to be announced at the Symposium)
 - Continuing to engage advancement is a top priority
 - Developing a larger leadership network of engaged members
 - Establishing the Pharmacy Associate Director
 - Developing the Advisory Board
-

Research

Research Clusters

- Thus far, we have developed four research clusters, where member expertise is concentrated to catalyze novel and interdisciplinary collaborations. Research clusters are detailed in the [2023/2024 Annual Report](#) and [website](#), including motivation, key partners, activities and members leading research.
- Full updates on cluster activities will be detailed in the 2025/2026 Annual Report.

To date:

- 4 Research clusters, including:
 - [Equitable Urban Climate Resilience](#)
 - [Pharmaceuticals in the Environment](#)
 - [Mental Health in the Anthropocene](#)
 - [Sustainable Digital Health Transformation](#)

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Continuing to engage research cluster partners and members to collaborate on [seminars](#) and submissions for 2025 Symposium panels and posters
- Assessing possibility for new emerging clusters

Research Supports & Services

- Funding opportunities are regularly communicated via our newsletter.
- Updates on member research initiatives, results, and publications are shared through our newsletter, website, and events (seminars, workshops, Symposium).

N/A

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Members are increasingly submitting their [events](#) and [news](#) to be shared on our website and in our newsletter, including publications, courses, and opportunities
- Continuing to assess if more services and supports are feasible and would be impactful

Research

Seed Grants

- We were delighted that six centres of excellence were willing to partner to offer co-funding for seed grants. Five excellent applications were approved by an interdisciplinary review committee.
- We see opportunity to motivate research and grow capacity through funding students, and are launching: Summer Student Funding and PhD Graduate Fellowships.

To date:

- 5 Seed grants funded
 - 2 Faculties represented (Medicine, Nursing)
 - 100% Partnered (CQuIPS, iRISE, UofT SDGs, UofT Committee on the Environment, Climate Change & Sustainability)
- 4 Summer Student Funding Awards approved (2 Medicine, 1 Public Health, 1 Pharmacy)

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Thus far, seed grants have resulted in two publications (Kate Hanneman), one submitted for publication (Sarah Ward) and a Phase 2 Catalyst and Research Development Grant from the Institute for Pandemics (Quinn Grundy)
- Providing Summer Student Funding to support members in hiring students full-time on projects that relate to current or prospective research clusters
- Launching PhD Graduate Fellowships to contribute to the graduate stipend of students with relevant dissertations

Journal Club

- The Climate, Health & Sustainable Care Journal Club was launched in January 2025, and is being facilitated through monthly meetings to engage trainees and members in reviewing emerging evidence. Members and students have been submitting papers to discuss.

To date:

- 5 sessions offered
- 50 members, with 20-25 participants per session

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Continuing to strengthen and expand monthly journal club

Education

Faculty Training Program

- We have launched a [Climate & Health Faculty Training Program](#) and are currently recruiting the first cohort to participate.

N/A

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Recruiting participants for the first Faculty Training Program cohort
- Evaluate and refine program for 2026

CPD Programs

- We launched the [Planetary Health & Sustainable Care ECHO](#), run by CASCADES with support from the Collaborative Centre and our members. We have adopted the ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model to offer a collaborative space where people in the Canadian healthcare sector can discuss, troubleshoot, and celebrate efforts to provide climate-resilient and sustainable care across settings and specialties, with the goal of spreading good practice.
 - The first cycle featured 10 weekly sessions from October 8 - December 10, 2024. Two more cycles will be offered in 2025 (8 weekly sessions during April 8 - May 27 and October - November), with plans to increase offerings in future.
- With CASCADES, we are developing a suite of asynchronous courses, building on the success of the [Introduction to Sustainable Health Systems online course](#), developed by CASCADES and amended in partnership with the Collaborative Centre and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The revised version recruited a scientific planning committee with 17 representatives from across Canada to achieve scientific integrity, objectivity, and balance. The course is free, offered in both English and French, accredited by both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and is available to all members of the Canadian healthcare community.

To date:

- Planetary Health & Sustainable Care ECHO: 137 participants
- Introduction to Sustainable Health Systems: 704 participants

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Offering at least two ECHO cycles in 2025
- Developing new partnerships to co-host ECHO cycles on specific themes
- Continuing to offer Introduction to Sustainable Health Systems course

Education

Student Training & Graduate Fellowship Programs

- In year one (2024/2025), we designed and are currently delivering a novel Student Training Program - a one-year non-credit certificate program to support research-oriented graduate and professional students and trainees to develop knowledge and research skills. The first cohort started in September 2024 and this multi-disciplinary group is building their knowledge on climate, health and sustainable care and developing their research expertise to build specialist capacity and advance priority areas of research (for student spotlights, see the 2023/2024 Annual Report).
- For year two (2025/2026), we have streamlined the Student Training Program, which focuses on specialized training through in-person workshops. We removed the requirement for research deliverables to make the program more accessible to professional students and trainees. We have also removed the accompanying stipend to be able to allow more students to participate.
- Facilitated by the Temerty Foundation gift, we have launched a PhD Graduate Fellowship to contribute to full-time PhD stipends, where students have related dissertations and at least one supervisor/co-supervisor is a member and from a founding faculty.

To date:

- 2024/2025 Student Training Program
 - 97 applicants from 11 graduate faculties
 - 10 students accepted (10 funded) for 2024/2025 cohort from across 7 faculties
 - 11 guest speakers

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Continuing 2024/2025 cohort; student deliverables to be presented in June
- Recruiting a new cohort for the streamlined Student Training Program for 2025/2026
- Launching a PhD Graduate Fellowship for 2025/2026

Practice & Policy Change

Knowledge Mobilization & Agenda-setting Activities

- In 2024, we hosted our first full-day Symposium, which engaged 225 people and reached the full capacity of the Faculty Club. This year, we will host our second Annual Symposium on October 30, 2025 at Hart House, providing extended capacity. We launched and hosted a Climate & Health Seminar Series, with regular online and hybrid sessions, along with research workshops, all in partnership.
- We also partnered to host:
 - With the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, Forum 2024, Toward Climate Resilient, Low Carbon Sustainable Health Systems (see 2023/2024 Annual Report for details), which engaged Senior Leaders across the network
 - With the Community Development Unit, Social Development, Finance & Administration at the City of Toronto, Climate Resilience Roundtable: Health, Wellbeing, and Health Systems (report in development)

To date:

- 22 Collaborative Centre events, engaging 2107 people and 16 partners
 - 1 Launch: 132 people
 - 1 Symposium: 225 people
 - 17 seminars: 1677 people
 - 3 workshops: 73 people
- 2 Externally partnered events:
 - CAHS Forum: 35 people
 - Climate Resilience Roundtable with the City of Toronto, Community Development Unit: 46 people

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Planning and expanding the 2025 Annual Symposium (October 30, 2025). Call for panels complete and tentative agenda developed; call for presentations and posters now open
- Continuing to host the Climate & Health Seminar Series; 2025/2026 schedule in development
- Continuing to develop partnerships and host workshop or other events, as appropriate
- Currently engaging members in the development of a new Critical Conversation Series, to explore and discuss challenging and novel topics
- Discussing next steps on partnership with the City of Toronto, Community Development Unit

Practice & Policy Change

Communities of Practice

- We continue to sustain the [TAHSN Sustainable Health System Community of Practice](#) and [CASCADES](#), along with their various initiatives (see details in [2023/2024 Annual Report](#))
- We have been strengthening connections with WHO Collaborating Centres Bioethics and Governance, Accountability, and Transparency in the Pharmaceutical Sector

To date:

- 2 Major impact initiatives sustained:
 - TAHSN Sustainable Health System Community of Practice (5 Working Groups & initiatives)
 - CASCADES

2024/2025 priorities & updates:

- Mobilizing the first assessment of TAHSN Sustainability Balanced Scorecard results through the [2024 TAHSN Climate & Sustainability Report](#), TAHSN organization news, [DLSPH news](#), [Temerty Medicine news](#), and presentations to organizations on results
- Refining 2025 Sustainability Balanced Scorecard, to be completed by all 14 TAHSN organizations; partnering with TAHSN on data analysis and presentation for 2025 results
- Pursuing funding to sustain the Community of Practice

Collaborative Centre Timeline





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