



The O'Brien Institute for Public Health &  
the Department of Community Health Sciences present:

## Climate Health: The medical professional's role in the world's crisis

Speaker: Joe Vipond

Friday, December 6, 2019 - 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.  
G500 - Health Sciences Centre, 3330 Hospital Dr NW

It is becoming increasingly evident that the climate crisis has serious implications for ecosystems, communities, and civilization itself. To date, the health frame has been underused as a method of creating understanding and engagement on the issue. Health professionals, as trusted members of society, can play an outsized role in creating the changes needed to allow for the speedy transformation of our energy systems. Case studies using the Alberta Coal Phase Out, Canadian Coal Phase Out, and creation of Alberta Health Service's Office of Sustainability will illustrate the discussion.

Joe Vipond has worked as an emergency physician for nineteen years, currently at the Foothills Medical Centre and the Rockyview General Hospital. His first advocacy campaign was as a spokesperson for the Alberta Coal Phase Out movement, and more recently, the Canadian Coal Phase Out network, and with these has had an impact on approximately 66 MT of greenhouse gas emissions, or 9% of Canada's total GHGs. He is a board member of the national charity Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and is the chair of their Alberta regional committee. He is also the co-founder and co-chair of the local non-profit the Calgary Climate Hub. Joe grew up in Calgary and continues to live there with his wife and two young daughters.

### Objectives:

1. To gain a greater understanding of the health implications of climate disruption, and the health benefits from mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.
2. To understand the role health and medical professionals can play in successful advocacy on the climate crisis.
3. To consider what possible advocacy campaigns health professionals may participate in, using other current advocacy campaigns as models.

**This event 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. This seminar is also available via an online**

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