



Climate change, community safety and healthy communities

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School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic**

**Felix Munger PhD, Executive Director, Canadian
Municipal Network on Crime Prevention**

PHABC Conference, 9 November 2022



Agenda

- **How does climate change affect safety?**
 - Dr. Trevor Hancock
- **Climate change: an emerging threat to community safety**
 - Felix Munger
- **How do we create 'climate safe' communities?**
 - Dr. Trevor Hancock
- **Questions & answers**
- **Group discussions**



How does climate change affect safety?

Dr. Trevor Hancock



**“Humanity is waging
war on nature. This is
senseless and
suicidal”**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

“The State Of The Planet”

Columbia University, 2 December 2020



It is also dangerous and destabilising

- **A direct threat to health and safety**
 - **Severe weather events causing injury and deaths**
 - **Higher temperatures and violence**
- **Indirect threats to community safety**
 - **Evacuations, looting, protests, civil unrest**
 - **Displaced workers**
 - **Poverty, hunger, lack of water etc.**
 - **Resource conflicts, eco-refugees**



The 'war' on nature has local consequences

- **Climate change threatens community safety through severe weather events, fires, flooding, urban heat events and so on.**
- **Mass evacuations may result in looting and other forms of civil unrest, unless managed well, while heat events may also increase the potential for violence.**



Consequences of climate change will be inequitable

- **Low-income, older, marginalised, racialised and Indigenous populations likely to incur more of the costs and fewer of the benefits.**
- **They live without air con, downstream, downwind and downhill, in the flood plains and closer to the dangerous industries, waste dumps etc.**
- **The potential for the resulting social injustice to dissolve into civil unrest must be considered.**



Basic survival needs may be compromised

- **Global changes are likely to undermine the basics needed for survival: Water, food, shelter, clean air, fuels and other material resources.**
- **International or even sub-national ‘resource wars’ could occur.**
- **Eco-refugees could result**
- **The consequences will be felt locally and inequitably.**
- **What if local drought and other crises lead to rationing of water and food? Might there be water or food riots?**

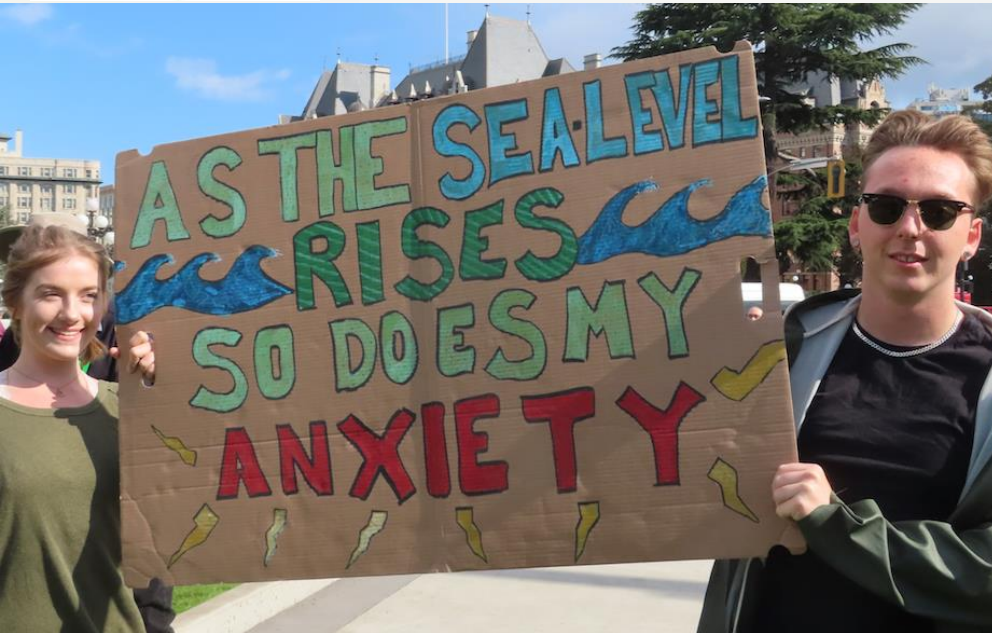


The 'green' transition will displace workers

- **Resentment, reaction to job loss.**
- **More diseases and deaths of despair.**
- **We have also seen an increase in domestic violence during Covid. Might that happen during the winding down of fossil fuel and other unsustainable industries?**
- **The potential for radicalisation is real; some argue this has fuelled the phenomenon of Trump and the right wing militias.**



Climate anxiety . . .



**Victoria,
27 September
2019**





. . . may fuel civil unrest

TIMES COLONIST, VICTORIA, B.C.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 A5



THE CAPITAL AND VANCOUVER ISLAND

Editor: Bryna Hallam > Telephone: 250-380-5333 > Email: localnews@timescolonist.com

VICTORIA TO JOIN GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE TODAY 'Eco-anxiety' energizes young activists

> FROM A3:
CLIMATE

She first started to notice the issue about 10 years ago after environmentalist and former U.S. vice-president Al Gore, who

is quoted in Victoria's Press, October 20



Demonstrators occupy the intersection of Fort and Douglas streets over the noon hour on Thursday as part of climate-strike events that are expected to culminate today in Greater Victoria and around the globe. TIMES COLONIST



Extinction Rebellion protesters block traffic on busy bridges across Canada – CTV News, 7 Oct 2019

What is the potential for clashes with citizens, public safety officers or workers in 'dirty' industries?

CLIMATE CHANGE: AN EMERGING THREAT TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

PHABC 2022 Conference

Felix Munger, PhD



@SaferCitiesCA
#ClimateChangeCommunitySafety

Together for Safer Canadian Cities



How do we create 'climate safe' communities?

Dr. Trevor Hancock



Building community safety while making peace with nature

- From the point of view of community safety, what would ‘making peace’ look like?
- How could that make our communities safer and healthier?



Three key strategies

- 1. Strengthen community cohesion and social equity**
- 2. Create more resilient communities (adaptation)**
- 3. Reduce our carbon and ecological footprints (mitigation)**



What have we learned from Covid?

- **Community matters**
- **Connection matters**
- **Caring matters**
- **Equity matters**
- **Sharing the burden matters**
- **Nature matters**



If “making peace with nature is the defining task of the coming decades” . . .

. . . we need to foster a sense of social solidarity through recognising the need to transition/transform into a community that has made peace with nature in a socially just way.



Healthy Communities 2.0

- **How do we make the socially just transition we have to make to a community that meets basic needs for all (the social foundation) while living within the ecological ceiling of One Planet**
- **We need**
 - **a Green New Deal**
 - **a Just Transition**
 - **a Doughnut Economy**
 - **a One Planet Community**



The Pact for a Green New Deal - Canada, 2019

- **A Green New Deal is a vision of a rapid, inclusive and far-reaching transition, to slash emissions, protect critical biodiversity, meet the demands of the multiple crises we face, and create over a million jobs in the process**



A just transition

- For workers
- For consumers/customers
- For remote/ rural communities
- For Indigenous people
- For vulnerable people

Just Transition
Creating a green social contract
for BC's resource workers
Canadian Centre for Policy
Alternatives, 2015

Government of Canada

Home Participate Closed Consultations in Home Page

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Just Transition

Status: As of April 30, 2022, we are no longer accepting written submissions. However, engagement with Indigenous groups and provinces and territories is ongoing.

Helping workers and communities thrive in a net-zero carbon economy



cbc.ca

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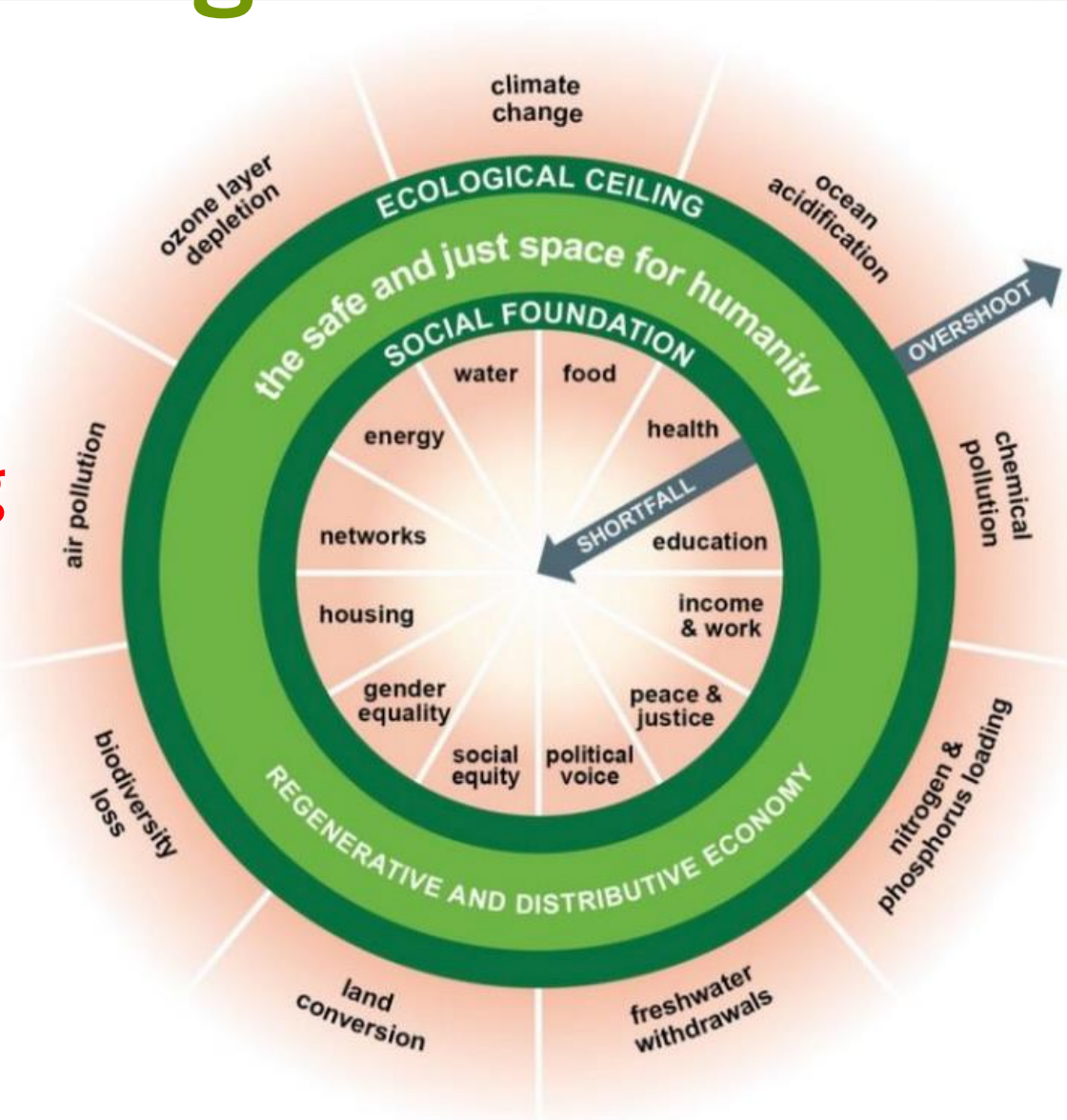
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B.C. First Nations head to COP27 seeking global leaders' attention for a 'just transition' to greener future



Doughnut economics: “Thriving in balance”

- “a social foundation of well-being that no one should fall below and an ecological ceiling of planetary pressure that we should not go beyond. Between the two lies a safe and just space for all”





Bioregional's 10 principles of One Planet Living



Health and happiness



Local and sustainable food



Equity and local economy



Travel and transport



Culture and community



Materials and products



Land and nature



Zero waste



Sustainable water



Zero carbon energy



A common purpose to bring us together

- **Can we engage people across our communities, all ages and in all our diversity, in this one central and life-long challenge of our age?**
- **In doing so, we could build social cohesion and social support, reduce dramatically the risk of social disparity, exclusion and conflict, and thus enhance community safety in the face of climate change**



Questions

- **Groups of 4-5 participants (5 minutes)**
 - 1. Share reactions in the group**
 - 2. Formulate 2-3 questions to Trevor & Felix**



Discussions

- **Same groups of 4-5 participants (30 minutes)**

What does this all mean for:

- 1. You personally?**
- 2. The community you live in?**
- 3. Your professional work?**
- 4. What are some of the actions that you can/will take now that you know about this?**



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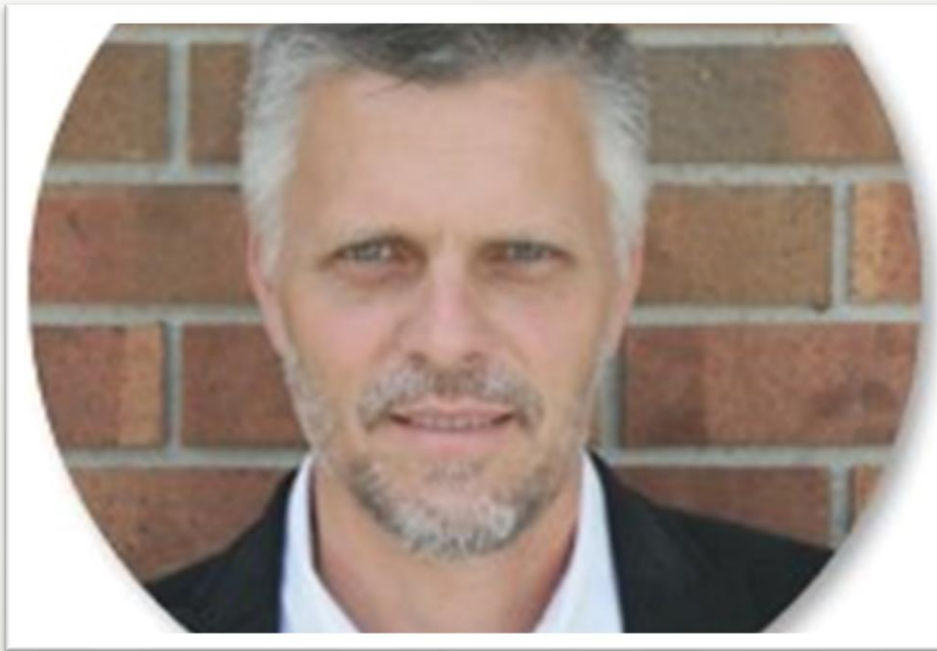




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