



Public Health Association of BC

2024–2025 Annual Report

**Presented at the Annual General Meeting
February 18th, 2026**



President's Report 2025

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Independent First Nations of what is now known as British Columbia for the careful guardianship of their traditional and unceded) territories.

I am proud to be able to say that PHABC has been a prominent voice with and for Indigenous rights and our settler responsibilities for many years now. For example, we have held an Elder In-Residence position since 2018. We have a strong northern BC presence on our board and committees, where 20% of the population is Indigenous (Northern Health, Population Health Status Report 2022).

May our commitment to respectful partnership and cooperation continue to grow in 2026.

I want to begin with gratitude. Many thanks are due to our wonderful Executive Director, Shannon Turner, and our staff who work with such commitment and dedication for the mission and goals of our organization. They truly understand the work of bettering public health for the good off all. They carry both vision and hard-won practical knowledge in seeing beyond the lines of a job description. They understand the deeper roots of their work in tackling injustice and inequities and driving towards balance and fairness, not just in BC but wherever our PHABC reach can touch. Our Executive Director is truly a powerhouse of compassion and strategic thinking, guiding both daily operations and the journey to long term goals with such effective clarity.

I also want to especially recognize the members of the Board of Directors who contribute such wealth in the knowledge and wisdom they bring to the table. As this is my last year as President I know that I, and the board, would not have experienced such growth in strength and capacity without their willingness to step up, and into their responsibilities. They are courageous, willing to say no when needed, and back any work we have agreed to with their strength and dedication. PHABC just celebrated their 70th anniversary and we have a solid foundation to be able to grow in such positive and promising ways. As the world turns in threatening ways our organization will be needed more than ever. I am thrilled to say we are in the best of places to be an effective force for good

Our board members serve on our important board committees like the Finance and the Executive Committee, and they also steer operational committees, such Capacity Building Committee (CBC) that is responsible for assessing member needs, especially decisions and implementation for the well-loved and much anticipated annual learning opportunities. In

past years these focused on the Summer Institute and the annual conference. The work of supporting professional growth and experience is changing. In an increasingly digital age our opportunities will become more accessible through other avenues. The Policy, Advocacy, Research and Communications Committee (PARC) committee which sets the foundations for healthier public policy, supports shared research initiatives and steers our significant advocacy efforts.

PHABC would not be able to serve its members and our mission without this significant and essential contribution by board members. The calibre of the PHABC board members and the treasure chest of experiences, education, and commitment to diverse populations is legendary. Becoming a board member for PHABC is a commitment that signals excellence in such a way that membership on the board is a sought-after seal of approval that public health practitioners with vision pursue.

The dynamic fusion of these elements is in service to, and fueled by our membership. Across this province members of public health related professions find both collegial satisfaction and a venue for political and cultural value in how this organization interprets, supports, and believes in the value of public health and the individuals who work so unceasingly for a vision and goal bigger than a job description.

This year, I am proud to present some highlights from last year that will highlight the stellar work of a capable and visionary organization and demonstrate the capacity and daily commitment of those who work within PHABC.

Branding Initiative:

A unified brand strategy was developed and refined to reflect PHABC's commitment to equity and social justice. Our new tagline, "Inspiration. Collaboration. Change," reflects the organization's renewed focus on education, social justice, and health advocacy.

BC Election Primer:

A major achievement this year was the development of the BC Election Primer, presented by Quwam Kelani. This primer focuses on key public health issues such as climate change, mental well-being, and public health funding, positioning PHABC as a vital player in advocacy efforts during the upcoming election.

Committee Successes:

PARC (Policy, Advocacy, and Research Committee): Focused on advocacy around substance use and housing crises, with an emphasis on influencing public policy through the BC Election Primer.

CBC (Capacity Building Committee): Continued efforts toward planetary health education with updates on the development of a planetary health module.

I close out my term as president, ready to step into the role of Past President and pass the baton to my wonderful PHABC board colleague, Muyi Ihogohosa. I admit to being both intimidated and thrilled by the board we have built through the elections of 2025. I anticipate great things and hope I can continue to live up to the caliber of board members and staff ramping up for the new year.

We live in what we can carefully describe as “interesting times”. We are going to need courage, compassion, and connections. I can confidently state that PHABC has these three Cs in abundance. We are going to need them - and we are ready.

M. Theresa Healy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Theresa Healy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President
Public Health Association of British Columbia

Governance Committee Report

We are pleased to share that Lena Hozaima joined the Governance Committee for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Lena assisted Board President, Theresa Healy in completing a Terms of Reference (TOR) review.

The Board of Directors enjoyed a full slate following nominations last year and board terms were completed for 2 members - Heather Oullette and Lena Hozaima. A number of Board Members stepped into executive roles for the upcoming board year, maintaining a continuity of board operations.

The early retirement of our Treasurer, Gord Cote, occurred in the third quarter of the fiscal year. Gord will stay involved with PHABC as an advisor. Dr. Gord Miller stepped into the Treasurer role to ensure coverage for PHABC. Gord has been a financial signatory for all transactions at PHABC over the last four years, so he was well placed to take on this role.

M. Theresa Healy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Theresa Healy".

President

Public Health Association of British Columbia

Finance Committee Report

PHABC remains a strong, active, and resilient organization, continuing to advance public health priorities across British Columbia through careful financial stewardship, diversified funding, and sound governance.

The Association's financial position improved notably in 2024–2025. While deferred revenue obligations continue to affect the balance sheet, the overall deficit was reduced from approximately \$1.14 million in 2023–2024 to approximately \$500,000 in 2024–2025. This reflects steady progress and prudent financial management.

During the year, PHABC transitioned to a new accounting firm as part of regular governance review and continuous improvement. The firm completed a detailed review of records, processes, and prior-year items, and provided positive feedback regarding the Association's strong internal controls, dual-signature systems, monthly variance reporting, and experienced financial oversight.

PHABC also reduced expenses across most operational areas during the year. Thoughtful decisions around discretionary spending, including conference and meeting costs, helped generate meaningful savings while preserving core services and program delivery.

The Association continues to benefit from a diversified funding model that supports stability and reduces reliance on any single revenue source. This position was strengthened further by securing a new \$2 million project with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to support youth receiving income assistance into the workforce.

Looking ahead, PHABC is focused on continuing to reduce the remaining deficit, expanding project-based funding, strengthening philanthropic partnerships, and building a sustainable contingency reserve for the future.

With strong governance, dedicated staff, supportive members, and growing partnerships, PHABC remains well-positioned to continue its leadership role in public health across the province.

Dr. Gord Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Miller".

Treasurer

Public Health Association of British Columbia

Capacity Building Committee (CBC) Report

I. 2025 Annual Summer Institute & Conference

This year's Summer Institute entitled *Building Wellbeing Societies and Communities* took place virtually over a full day event on June 25th, 2025. Planning was led by Scientific Program Committee Co-Chairs, Dr. Trevor Hancock and Dr. Lindsay McLaren. This event brought together subject matter experts, health professionals, researchers, academics, policymakers, and advocates; to explore what it means to build a wellbeing society, engage in dialogue on its implications, and discuss strategies for further integration into public health practice.

In recognition of recent shifts in BC's health system's landscape, a decision was made to postpone this year's annual conference. In lieu of the conference, a virtual Wellbeing Society Webinar Series launched on October 17th, 2025, and is planned to continue into 2026. Preliminary topics include:

- The Deeper Implications of a Wellbeing Society
- An Indigenous framing for the Wellbeing Society
- The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's Report
- Governance for Wellbeing – what does that really mean and look like?
- Towards a Wellbeing Economy
- Making peace with nature
- A Wellbeing of Future Generations Act for BC and Canada
- Social and environmental injustice
- What is wellbeing and how do we measure it?

Building on the Summer Institute and webinar series, the annual conference is planned to resume in fall 2026 with a continued focus on wellbeing societies.

II. Membership Survey

The new 2025-26 Membership Survey deployed in fall 2025 along with an incentive for participants to win one pass to the 2026 fall conference. The survey was met with positive engagement from our membership. An anonymized summary of findings will be generated in early 2026 and will be used to inform strategic priorities for capacity building initiatives and beyond, to ensure alignment with our membership's interests and needs.

III. Youth Engagement

PHABC has maintained and strengthened its partnership with Chatter High, an online content engagement platform using gamification techniques to help high school students learn about post-secondary and career options. Earlier in the year, PHABC

introduced a new module on the Chatter High platform, featuring planetary health questions and content. Engagement report findings showed that over 5000 unique participants engaged in public and planetary health content in over 97 schools across nearly 47 school districts in BC, in the 2024-25 academic year. This affirms BC youth's interest in public health, planetary health, and related programs and careers. Alongside this, an interactive presentation was delivered to students of School District 73's Health Sciences Academy, providing foundational knowledge of public health in the Canadian and BC contexts (including its core functions, key achievements, service delivery, key collaborators, the social determinants of health, and health equity). Furthermore, as part of our continued commitment to youth engagement, planning is underway with the aim of deepening opportunities for longer-term youth and student engagement.

Allysha Ram & Lara Frederick, Co-Chairs, Capacity Building Committee
Public Health Association of British Columbia

Policy, Advocacy, Research, and Communications (PARC) Committee Report

The committee covered a lot of ground in our four meetings – January, February, April, and September

We started the year off with reviewing PHABC Risk Mitigation Policy for Corporate Sponsorships:

- Rebekah shared the policy with the group
- Following discussion, PARC suggested three edits before presentation of this policy to the Board
 - Expand excluded industries to include fast food and sweetened beverage companies
 - Align terminology throughout the policy with the WHO report on health-harming industries
 - Add nuance to handling of weapons-related sponsors to differentiate between harmful manufacturing and legitimate uses like hunting

Trevor Hancock gave an update on work being done by the Canadian Coalition for Planetary Health and Wellbeing Society:

- The coalition seeks to expand advocacy and research efforts promoting systemic changes
- Noted that PHABC is a founding member and will support this coalition's objectives at the Board meeting

The PARC committee received a presentation about the Good Food Organization (GFO) program hosted by Community Food Centres Canada:

- No financial commitment is involved
- GFO focuses on food access, education, and advocacy efforts
- PARC members asked questions and shared discussion about concerns
- The presenters were asked to prepare a one-page summary addressing concerns, including
 - Clarification on international involvement
 - Breakdown of GFO's advocacy efforts
 - Explanation of funding sources
- Before recommending joining the organization, PARC members wanted to ensure that GFO's approach aligns with PHABC's shift from charitable food models to sustainable food systems

In April, the requested clarifications were received and discussed. It was acknowledged that the work of the GFO does align with PHABC's goals. A motion was made, the committee voted and agreed to proceed with PHABC membership in the GFO.

Shannon shared information about the Public Health Infrastructure policy brief. The PARC committee discussion included:

- Public health budgets have not increased beyond 3% in 20 years, despite recommendations for 6-10%
- There is a need for a clear advocacy strategy

PARC committee recommendations:

- Trevor to share historical advocacy documents related to past PH infrastructure campaigns
- Shannon to gather latest reports and related policy briefs
- Four members volunteered to draft a one-page advocacy brief with key messages for policy makers and board approval

Lena Hozaima presented the Fund Development Policy Framework, including the importance of ethical, transparent fundraising practices, an overview of legal and regulatory frameworks, and risk mitigation to avoid penalties and ensure sustainable fundraising. Shannon emphasized the significance of formalizing this policy for future sustainability of PHABC.

- A motion was made, voted on, and carried unanimously to approve the Fund Development Policy and recommend it for Board review and approval

Finally, the PARC committee had a healthy discussion about Federal PH infrastructure changes, upcoming cuts, understanding of senior cabinet ministers about impacts of budget cuts and how PHABC is continuing forward after losing Farm to School funding. Looking forward, a new strategic plan for PHABC will be coming. We are all concerned about possible gutting of climate initiatives, infrastructure, and programming.

Trevor Hancock presented a final version of Planetary Health IS Public Health. Next steps determined by members, and a motion was presented to proceed with the adoption of PHPH with addition of a reference to PH Core Competencies.

- Recommended action is to circulate in BC first and then expand to national and international versions

PARC committee recommended that PHABC move forward with a letter of support for shingles vaccine coverage.

We received information about an Open Letter against food as a weapon of war to the Federal Government.

- We agreed to put out a call to sign this letter as individuals who are concerned citizens

Heather Oullette and Quwam Kelani, Co-Chairs, Policy, Advocacy, Research, and Communications Committee.