

AGENDA
25th Annual BC One Health and Zoonoses Symposium
November 19, 2026 • Coast Langley City Hotel & Convention Centre • 8:30 am – 4:00 pm PST

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration (refreshments and hot breakfast)

9:00 – 9:15 am **Welcome and Land acknowledgement:**
Erin Fraser, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), **Theresa Burns**, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF)

9:15 – 9:35 am **Panel discussion: Looking back, moving forward: A conversation with the early leaders of One Health in British Columbia**
Ron Lewis Former B.C. Chief Veterinarian
Muhammad Morshed Retired Lead of Zoonotic and Emerging Pathogens Lab, BCCDC
Helen Schwantje Former B.C. Wildlife Veterinarian

Session One: 9:35 – 10:40 am • Moderator: Theresa Burns, MAF

9:35 – 9:50 am **Jessica Russell**, Biosecurity Consulting
Estimating the risk of incidentally introducing Chronic wasting disease via live animal imports.

9:50 – 10:05 am **Michael Lee**, BCCDC
Sequencing of poultry related avian influenza virus for a wind-borne link (SPRAWL)

10:05 – 10:20 am **Shannon Waters**, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Health
Water as a relative: Indigenous perspectives and First Nations leadership in watershed stewardship

10:20 – 10:45 am **Mandy Kellner**, BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship
Bats in British Columbia: bat population dynamics and community stewardship

10:45 – 11:00 am Refreshment break

Session Two: Emerging issues / program updates: 11:00 am – Noon • Moderator: Anya Smith, BCCDC

11:00 – 11:30 am **James Kwan**, BCCDC
Genomic Ecological Microbial Source Tracking for Oceans Nature and the Environment (GEMSTONE)

Anya Smith, BCCDC
Vectors and Vector-Borne pathogens: update on North Shore and Sea-to-Sky corridor applied research

Abdulaa Babili, BCCDC
BC risk assessment on vectors and Vector-Borne diseases in the context of climate change

Sharon Relova and Natalie Prystajecky, BCCDC
BC-SAFE: BC Surveillance and Analysis of Foodborne Pathogens

Michelle Coombe, MAF and **Hannah Lishman**, BCCDC
Building a One Health antimicrobial stewardship working group in BC

Sherry Khoddami, BCCDC
Smallholder farmers' perspectives on a disaster preparedness and management program in British Columbia, Canada

Rapid Fire Trainee Session • Moderator: Chelsea Himsworth, MAF

11:30 – 12:00 pm **Amarachi Ezeocha**, Simon Fraser University
Multisectoral One Health communications among human-, animal-, and vet- practitioners

Alexandra Beukens, Simon Fraser University
Resilience and small lot poultry at the interface of avian influenza and extreme weather

Mariana Manjarrez Osuna, UBC with BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BC poultry system and Salmonella Enteritidis risk areas

Bridget Mateyko, BCCDC
A Pilot project for enhanced mosquito surveillance on Vancouver's North Shore

Jillaine Kuelker, AAFC/AAC

Developing a nanopore sequencing protocol for rapid pathogen and antimicrobial resistance detection on dairy farms

Sherry Khoddami on behalf of Hasson Malik, BCCDC

Poultry workers' and owners' perspectives on self-collection for avian influenza testing: A qualitative pilot study

12.00 – 1:00 pm Lunch Break

Session Three, Case Study: 1:00 – 2:20pm

Planning group

Sharon Relova, BCCDC (lead)
Hannah Caird, BCCDC
Natalie Prystajek, BCCDC PHL
Michelle Coombe, MAF
Mira Kelada-Antoun, PHAC
Anmol Bains, BCCDC

2:20 – 2:40 pm Afternoon Break

Session Four - 2:40 – 4:00 pm • Moderator: Sahr Mian, Genome BC

2:40 – 2:45 pm

Chelsea Himsworth, MAF
Trainee award presentation

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Mayank Singal and Quinn Stewart, BCCDC
Rabies Exposures in BC

3:00 – 3:15 pm

Erin Seagren, BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship
Cyanobacteria: freshwater lake blooms

3:15 – 3:30 am

Hanna Oltean, Department of Health, Washington State
Washington State Zoonoses Update

3:30 – 3:45 pm

Shannon Russell, BCCDC
A Silver Lining in the Cloud: Building Connected Genomic Intelligence for One Health Pathogens

3:45 – 4:00 pm

Closing Remarks
Muhammad Morshed, BC Centre for Disease Control

Sponsored by:



Sponsored (in part) by BCCDC Facilities Engagement Specialist Services Committee, Doctors of B.C.

ACRONYMS: MAF (BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food), BCCDC PHL (BC Centre for Disease Control, Public Health Laboratory), AAFC (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), OPHO (Office of the Provincial Health Officer)