



UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA

# ABOUT THE **SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Towards a Healthier and  
Equitable Future for All



REPORTING PERIOD OF JULY 1ST, 2021 - JUNE 30TH, 2022



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# What is public health?

**It's the health system that cares for you. It's sustainable water and sanitation systems. It's policies that create healthy environments. It's harm reduction for those at risk. And so much more. Public health goes beyond individual treatment to address health disparities and work towards solutions in populations.**

**It is a combination of programs, services and policies that protect and promote the health of all Canadians. Public health researchers, practitioners and educators work with communities and populations. They identify the causes of disease and health inequity to ignite practical solutions for a flourishing tomorrow.**

# Why public health matters

Public health touches everyone and everything. The COVID-19 pandemic we have experienced has made that abundantly clear, as it has impacted the ways we live, learn, work and engage. It has amplified existing inequities in our systems and communities. Public health is uniquely positioned to be the hub between community, government, academia and industry, coming together to generate solutions to the root causes of disease and health inequity.

## Vision

Igniting  
boundless  
solutions for  
a flourishing  
tomorrow

With an eye to the rapidly evolving public-health landscape, the School of Public Health (SPH) will expand upon its existing activities and programs while pursuing new opportunities to reimagine and transform public-health education, research and practice. Our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigeneity is at the core of all we do.

Firmly grounded in our foundational commitment to improving population health by advancing research, educating tomorrow's public leaders and creating partnerships, the School is looking ahead to take on urgent and complex health challenges, improve health equity and optimize health outcomes for all. How will we achieve this? We are committed to:

## Mission

To advance the  
public's health by  
engaging partners  
in world-leading  
research, learning  
and action

- driving multisectoral, community-engaged research at the intersections of environmental, social, health and sustainability in the face of climate and economic change
- creating partnerships that identify the root causes of inequity and disease in order to foster wide-reaching solutions in our populations
- providing students with practical learning opportunities that promote leadership, partnership and renewed vision in our world
- ensuring access to innovative public-health education and knowledge in order to maximize every opportunity to elevate the human and planetary condition

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## Leading education

**We deliver innovative high-quality learning experiences that are practical, relevant and of the highest standards.**

Most of us rarely think about public health until a crisis such as a natural disaster or a global pandemic captures our attention. But public-health professionals — many of whom may hold public-health degrees — work on a daily basis to keep people healthy and safe, locally and around the world, by preventing disease and injury and promoting health and wellness. In this post-pandemic era, we need public-health professionals now more than ever.

Our graduate education programs are designed to meet the demand for skilled public-health professionals who are dedicated to tackling today's challenges to improve the health of people.

**We engage students and support their development through these graduate programs:**

- Master of Public Health (MPH): general public health degree, course-based
- Master of Arts in Community Engagement (MACE): thesis-based or course-based
- Master of Science (MSc): in seven areas of specialization, thesis-based
- Doctorate (PhD): in four areas of specialization, thesis-based

Graduate embedded certificates (GECs) are programs available to students studying at the University of Alberta. They provide a unique opportunity for students to earn a second credential concurrently with their degree program.

**The School of Public Health offers four GECs:**

- Climate Change and Health
- Community-Based Research and Evaluation
- Communicable Diseases
- Health Economic Evaluation
- Health Policy Management

**GECs under development:**

- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Global Health

The School of Public Health will continue to establish GECs based on our diverse areas of expertise.

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## Professional development

Public-health professionals often find themselves working in an environment that is constantly changing. To this end, we offer professional development programs that provide an opportunity for growth and learning.

**Evaluation in the Community Context:** Introduction to the basics of evaluation, including the foundations, approaches, steps, strategies and ethical considerations of evaluation, with an application across diverse disciplines (e.g., health care, community development, government, not-for-profit)

**Fellowship in Health System Improvement:** Designed for people with significant health-system experience, who are eager to increase their knowledge of health-system performance, enhance their personal and organizational leadership skills and develop their capacity to lead transformational change.

# Education quick facts:

(July 1st 2021 - June 30th, 2022)

In 2021, we graduated 83 students:

**8**  
MACE

**50**  
MPH

**18**  
MSc

**7**  
PhD

**50 GEC in Communicable Diseases**

**1 GEC in Community-Based Research and Evaluation**

**36**  
STUDENTS ARE INTERNATIONAL

**6**  
SELF-IDENTIFY AS INDIGENEOUS

**37**  
FACULTY MEMBERS

**62**  
SCHOLARSHIPS FROM SPH: STUDENTS RECEIVED \$728,441 IN AWARDS

In 2022, we had a total of

**78 students begin our MPH program, 14 MACE, 24 MSc and 12 PhD**

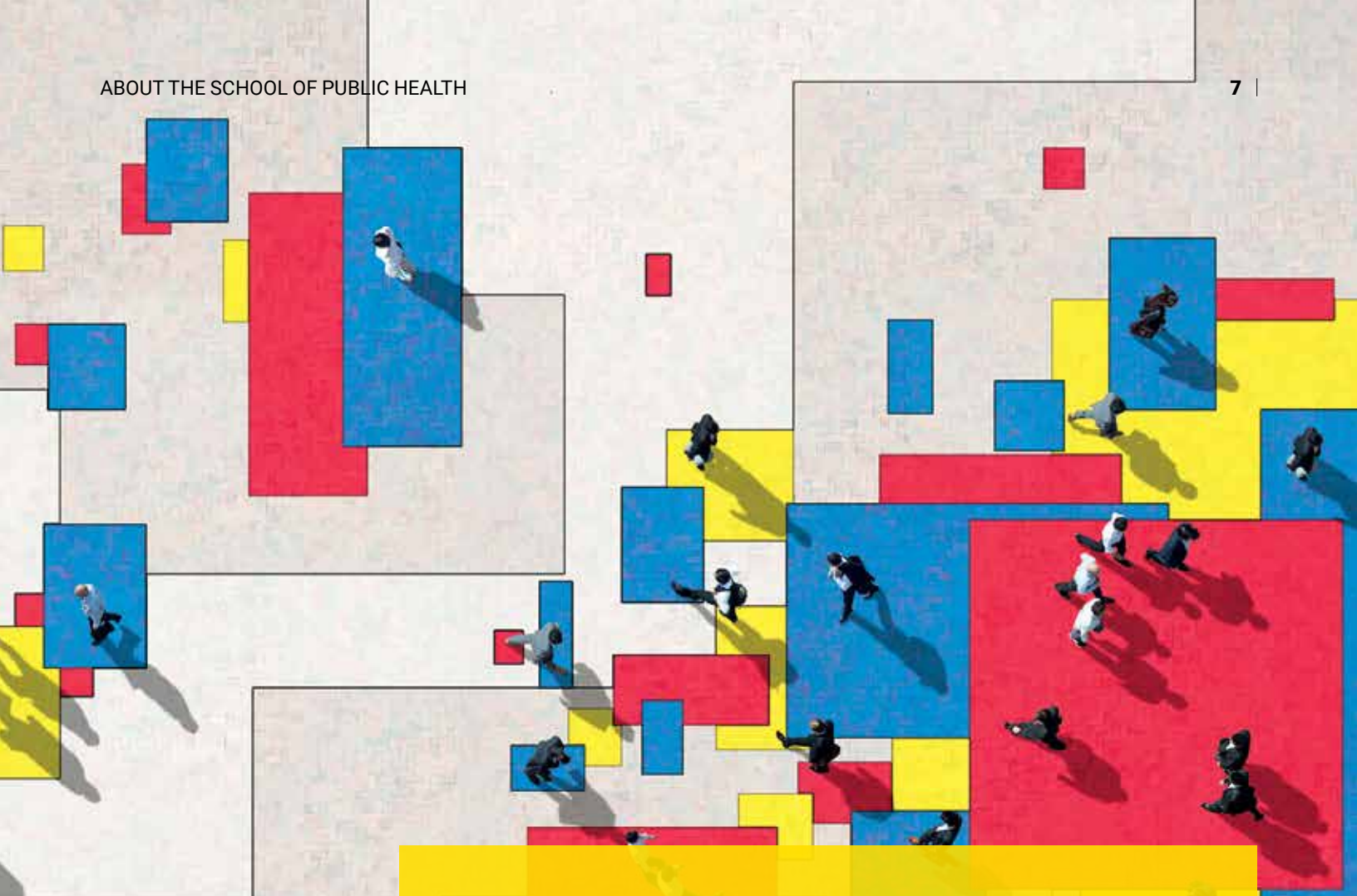
1,115 applications across all degrees, with

**128 students who began their programs in the Fall '22 term**

They come from 20 different countries around the world:

- Australia | Bangladesh | Canada**
- Cayman Islands | China | Germany**
- Hong Kong | India | Japan | Kazakhstan**
- Mexico | Norway | Russia | Saudi Arabia**
- Singapore | South Korea | Switzerland**
- United Kingdom | United States | Vanuatu**





# LEADING RESEARCH

**We lead research excellence by creating evidence-informed links between new knowledge and public-health policy and practice.**

**Public-health research transcends single-sector solutions. SPH faculty members are embedded in the communities they serve, and work collaboratively with partners across other University of Alberta faculties as well as regionally, nationally and internationally.**

### Three research centres:

**The Centre for Healthy Communities:** Works with diverse partners and collaborators to advance the well-being and sustainability of communities

**The Community-University Partnership:** A unique collaboration among the University of Alberta, government, community organizations, and funders focused on evidence-informed program and policy decisions that support the wellbeing of children, youth, families and communities

**The Injury Prevention Centre:** Acts as a catalyst for action by supporting communities and decision-makers with knowledge and tools, through injury surveillance, evaluation, policy development and public education

## RESEARCH AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

1.0 CIRCUMPOLAR & GLOBAL HEALTH	2.0 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION & PLANETARY HEALTH	3.0 COMMUNITY & POPULATION HEALTH, WELLBEING & SUSTAINABILITY	4.0 INNOVATION & RESPONSIVENESS TO HEALTH SYSTEMS & HEALTH POLICY	5.0 SOCIAL INEQUALITY, STRUCTURAL VULNERABILITY & HEALTH EQUITY
Did you know food insecurity in northern Indigenous communities is the highest in Canada and the highest of any developed country in the world?	Did you know there is a fundamental interdependency between human and animal health and the health of our planet?	Did you know that 85 per cent of what makes us healthy lies outside of our genetic makeup and the scope of the health-care system?	Did you know health systems and health policy are central to many complex public-health issues?	Did you know social inequities such as racism and gender and income inequalities worsen health inequities?
Circumpolar health is concerned with the diverse populations and communities in the Arctic, whose health and well-being are uniquely shaped by their diverse environment.	Climate change impacts include mental health, emergency responses (e.g., to extreme weather, fires or floods), food security and others.	Our vision is to forge a future for every community that is healthy, sustainable and flourishing.	Health services and policy research is aimed at generating knowledge to address issues related to health service design and delivery and development of health-related policy.	Research in this area focuses on the determinants of health, drivers and impacts of inequities, as well as interventions and community partnerships grounded in principles of social justice and social change.



## Research quick facts:

(Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 unless otherwise stated)



## Leading community partnership and engagement

We lead community partnership and engagement through collaborative approaches across various disciplines and sectors.

The School of Public Health relies on partnerships and values all of the ways in which public-health faculty, students, alumni and donors are engaged in these endeavours. The School continually seeks new opportunities for working together to develop comprehensive solutions that address today's public health issues. Some of our partnerships include:

- Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and Public Health Agency of Canada
- the **Canadian College of Health Leaders**, to leverage educational and professional opportunities to our students
- the **Institute for Circumpolar Health Research** in Yellowknife, to develop research capacity based in the North, facilitate faculty and student outreach, and liaise with territorial governments and regional health authorities
- the **Alberta Public Health Association**, a provincial not-for-profit association, that strengthens the impact of those who promote and protect the health of the public by speaking out for health, advocating on issues that affect health, and facilitating educational and networking opportunities
- **Campus Alberta Health Outcomes and Public Health** initiatives, to promote a coordinated approach towards public-health research and education and developing healthy public policy
- the **Alberta Recreation and Parks Association**, to collaborate on research, programs, professional development and ways to develop strong community leaders and Alberta communities

# Public-health leaders

Our graduates are prepared to tackle today's and tomorrow's complex public-health challenges through breadth of expertise, knowledge and research.

Our graduates find challenging and rewarding positions in a variety of settings, such as government, academia and not-for-profit organizations, and remain an integral part of our alumni family.

They work as public-health leaders in community-based agencies, health centres, universities, the private sector and all levels of government, where they are prepared to take on the challenges of a career focused on promoting and protecting the health of people.



**REAGAN BARTEL,**  
**MPH '19**  
**Director of Health**  
Métis Nation of Alberta



**KIMBERLY FAIRMAN,**  
**MPH '21**  
**Executive Director and**  
**Adjunct Professor,**  
**School of Public Health**  
Institute for Circumpolar  
Health Research



**ARIF ALIBHAI,**  
**MHA '96, PHD '13**  
**President & CEO**  
Health, Education and  
Leadership (HEAL)  
International NGO



**AMY COLQUHOUN,**  
**PHD '18**  
**Manager, Population**  
**Health Assessment**  
Ministry of Health,  
Government of Alberta



**CHRIS NORMANDEAU,**  
**MSC '15**  
**Director**  
Research Partnerships  
& Investment - Cancer  
Research & Analytics,  
Cancer Care Alberta

**Alumni quick facts:**

(July 1st, 2021, - June 30th, 2022)

**1,800+****alumni spanning  
20-plus countries****OUR COMMITMENT TO INDIGENEITY,  
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVITY**

Our commitment to Indigeneity, equity, diversity, and inclusivity is at the core of all that we do. Firmly grounded in our foundational commitment to improving population health by advancing research, educating tomorrow's public leaders and creating partnerships, the School is looking ahead to take on urgent and complex health challenges, improve health equity and optimize health outcomes for all.

The School of Public Health is committed to relationships with Indigenous communities where faculty and students partner on research and promote learning environments. We are building an inclusive, mindful and respectful teaching, learning and research environment through a three-pronged approach:

- Mamawe a towiskiwin meaning working together is a group of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and additional SPH community members who work to support efforts towards Truth and Reconciliation
- Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Adjuncts
- Northern and Indigenous Health Strategy

The School of Public Health is part of the University of Alberta Black Academic Excellence Cohort Hire initiative. The School hired one tenure-track Black scholar to make an immediate and substantive contribution to advancing Black academic excellence at the School.

**Fast facts:**

**The School has appointed six northern Indigenous adjunct professors (non-faculty instructors) and four Elders and knowledge keepers to our Elders and Knowledge Keepers program.**

**Appointees play a key role as cultural mentors by participating in orientation sessions for the School, providing advice on incorporating traditional knowledge into School planning and research, contributing to the supervision of graduate students and lecturing on a variety of topics to students, faculty and staff.**

**The University of Alberta's online course "Indigenous Canada" is a prerequisite for students and staff prior to attending the School.**

# Leading with Purpose.



**UNIVERSITY  
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