

A child's drawing in crayon and colored pencil. On the left, a large tree with a brown trunk and green foliage stands next to a stone wall. Below the wall is a pond with several orange fish. In the center, a blue slide flows down a green hill. To the right, a tall yellow building with many windows stands next to a red barn. A dog is running on the grass, and a person is sitting on the ground. The background is filled with yellow and orange strokes, suggesting a bright sky or sun. The overall scene is a mix of nature and urban elements.

# **Children's Health and the Environment Workshop & Symposium:**

*Moving Research to Action for Healthy Kids*

**June 26 - 28, 2017**

Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre

Western University

London, Ontario, Canada

*"A Good City" by Clara, age 7*

# Children's Health and the Environment Workshop & Symposium:

## *Moving Research to Action for Healthy Kids*

### overview

The last 10 years has produced the largest body of evidence to date verifying that the physical environments of children's homes, schools, neighbourhoods and cities can profoundly impact their healthy development. It is now time to translate this research knowledge into decisive action – to guide interventions, direct new practices, and support policy changes that will provide healthier, safer and more vibrant communities for our children.

In 2010, the *Human Environments Analysis Laboratory* (HEAL) of Western University hosted an international workshop on **Children's Health and the Environment** to solicit the latest in research efforts, and to identify gaps in knowledge and evidence. In June 2017, the HEAL will once again gather an international group of leading researchers, practitioners and policymakers in **London, Ontario** to examine how research evidence is underscoring successful interventions, informing best practices and providing healthier environments for children in Canada and around the world.

Each day of this 3-day workshop will focus on a key issue related to children's healthy environments. Day 1 will explore practices and policies that improve children's access to **healthy food environments**, including at school and in their communities. Day 2 will focus on efforts to create home, school and community **environments for healthy physical activity**, including active travel and active play. Day 3 will emphasize initiatives and practices creating **healthy outdoor and natural environments**, including strategies for improving children's access to nature and 'risky' outdoor environments.

### speakers

An international group of researchers, practitioners and policy makers have been invited to report on both the current state of the research evidence and successful environmental or policy interventions that are positively impacting children's health or creating healthier built environments for them. Interactive discussions with speakers will identify ways we can all help to move the research to actions in support of healthy kids and communities.



### who should attend?

*The workshop presentations and interactive sessions will be of particular interest to academics, policymakers, and professionals in the fields of:*

- architecture
- child advocacy
- education
- epidemiology
- geography
- government & policy
- landscape architecture
- planning
- psychology
- public health
- social policy
- sociology

## workshop & symposium format

The three-day conference will be comprised of a small number of invited presentations, interspersed with roundtable and panel discussions, interactive poster sessions, and planned networking opportunities.

This workshop aims to provide an engaging and effective forum for knowledge exchange and mobilization between a cross-disciplinary group of researchers, practitioners and policymakers concerned with healthy environments for children and youth. Workshop participants will hear of successful initiatives and interventions taking place around the world, and will collectively discuss strategies for utilizing evidence from research and interventions to drive environmental and policy change.

## you're invited!

We need your input and expertise! Practitioners, researchers and policymakers from a wide range of fields and organizations are invited to attend this informative and interactive conference, to help us move research to action for healthier environments for children.

## call for abstracts

We invite abstracts from a wide range of disciplines for interactive poster or oral presentations to be delivered at the workshop on one or more of the 3 focus topics. Abstracts outlining your proposed presentation should be submitted in English, in 300 words or less, and should include a title and up to 5 key words. Up to 3 key references may be included beyond this word length. You will also be asked to submit the author(s)' name and contact information, plus a short bio for the presenting author (100 words max).

The deadline for submitting abstracts has been extended to **May 15, 2017**. Notices of acceptance will be sent out no later than May 22, 2017. See [www.theheal.ca/chews2017](http://www.theheal.ca/chews2017) for submission instructions.

## registration

Registration for all workshop presenters and attendees will open March 22, 2017. Participants will be able to register to attend for one or more individual days OR the full three-day workshop. Note that there are a limited number of delegate spaces each day, so register early to reserve your spot!

Further details on registration, fees, and accommodations available at: [www.theheal.ca/chews2017](http://www.theheal.ca/chews2017)



## important dates

- Mar 22** Registration Opens
- May 15** Abstracts Due
- May 22** Notices of Acceptance
- May 31** Registration Deadline for all authors accepted to present
- June 26** Healthy Food Environments
- June 27** Environments for Healthy Physical Activity
- June 28** Healthy Outdoor and Natural Environments

## questions?

Email us at  
[chews2017@gmail.com](mailto:chews2017@gmail.com)