



## Climate Change and Planetary Health Engagement Sessions: Background Information

### **Background**

Climate change is a threat to humanity with profound impacts on Island Health's patients, staff, and services. Equally important and interconnected is planetary health, the concept that human well-being is dependent on the health of planet Earth.

Island Health has an obligation to lessen its contribution to climate change, recognize planetary health as a critical priority, and adapt to meet the emerging impact of deteriorating planetary conditions on the population, staff, and infrastructure.

The purpose of these engagement sessions is to gather feedback from a diverse range of people and organizations that will be impacted by Island Health's new Climate Change and Planetary Health Strategy, identify innovative ideas and priorities, and align our work with existing local and provincial strategies.

### **Key Concepts/Definitions**

**Climate change:** Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Humans are the primary driver of climate change primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil. <sup>1</sup>

**Planetary health:** Planetary health is a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analyzing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth's natural systems on human health and all life on Earth. <sup>2</sup>

**Adaptation and mitigation:** Adaptation in this context refers to how Island Health can adjust its systems and processes to the current and future effects of climate change while mitigation refers to Island Health's efforts to prevent and reduce its contribution to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions.

### **What can I expect in the upcoming engagement session?**

The session will cover the five questions listed below. Members of Island Health's Climate Change and Planetary Health working group will be taking notes during the session to capture your responses. Those unable to attend a virtual session may email their feedback.

### **Engagement questions for session:**

1. What is the role of Island Health in addressing climate change and supporting planetary health?
2. What do you think are the most important climate change concerns on the island?
3. What would you like to learn more about that an Island Health strategy could address?
4. What kind of actions are you looking for in how Island Health responds to climate change and planetary health?
5. Are there any particular solutions or ideas that you would like to see included in an Island Health strategy?

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Definition [What Is Climate Change? | United Nations](#)

<sup>2</sup> Planetary Health Alliance Definition [PLANETARY HEALTH - Planetary Health Alliance](#)



### **Other Information**

If there is additional information you think we should be collecting, or new questions we should be asking, please let us know.

If you would like to provide further feedback, please email your comments to [Rory.Allen@islandhealth.ca](mailto:Rory.Allen@islandhealth.ca) or [Megan.Mills@islandhealth.ca](mailto:Megan.Mills@islandhealth.ca).