

REFLECTING ON THE PAST TO BUILD OUR FUTURE

Annual Report 2022–23

Message from the Director

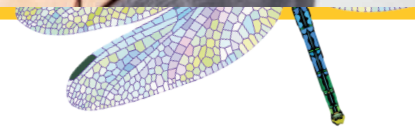
Welcome to Our Third Annual Report!

The Live Work Well Research Centre (LWWRC) has had a productive 2022–23 academic year. Although some may think the COVID-19 virus is fading, many people are still struggling to recover financially, emotionally, and physically from the world-wide pandemic. To support those whose livelihoods and well-being have been and are being affected, the Centre continues to focus on connecting with and cultivating communities to allow diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments to flourish.

This year, we were excited to have the opportunity to revisit and revise our Strategic Plan for 2023–27. Discussion and feedback sessions in the spring of 2023 provided the opportunity to revisit past highlights and challenges to imagine desirable goals and actions we could commit to in order to do our best work over the next five years. We launched our Strategic Plan on December 10, 2023, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Human Rights Day, which celebrates the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in Paris in 1948. We chose that launch day to symbolize how the emphasis on *rights for all* that is enshrined in UDHR is inexorably woven throughout our work, which is anticipating, learning, and being responsive to the changing needs of diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments through research, teaching, and accessible knowledge sharing, including policy-relevant and community-engaged activities.

We were pleased to host the hybrid Reimagining Livelihoods Forum on August 23–24, 2023, in downtown Guelph, ON, and online. We heard from researchers and organizations as close as the University of Guelph (UofG) and as far away as Africa and the Netherlands. Our desire to model this as an inclusive and welcoming opportunity for folks to gather to discuss livelihoods in all its forms was a success as indicated by a participant's response that they "liked the collaborative/feminist feel to the event. It was a feeling of community that made me feel truly engaged and wanting to learn more."

The "All My Relations" Cluster continues their efforts to raise funds for Nokom's House, a land-based research lab to be constructed in the UofG Arboretum. It will bring together Indigenous scholars to explore questions of relationship in an interdisciplinary research environment. The Disability & Livelihoods in Canada project, under the Disabilities, Access, and Inclusion Cluster, is entering its final few months, but will be continuing its work and outreach through the development of the Reimagining Livelihoods project's multimedia platform. The Displacements, Emergence, and Change Cluster's Storied Lives project continues to do important work in raising awareness of and changing



perspectives on poverty within our community by holding listening events for their podcasts, now housed on the website of our project partner, Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination (PTF). The Reimagining Care Cluster presented a workshop as well as an art display at Reimagining Livelihoods Forum and continues to reach community members with the mural from their Art in a Just Recovery project, permanently housed at the Guelph Farmers' Market and also online on Art Not Shame's website. The Sexual and Gender Diversity Cluster continues to publish important works on disrupting heteronormativity in order to create more inclusive spaces.

The LWWRC has seen some major staffing changes this year, with the arrival of Sharon Findlay as Project Manager for EDID-GHDI and the departure of Alex Sawatzky and arrival of Lenore Latta as Research and Knowledge Mobilization Manager. Kirsten Van Houten joined the Centre as a post-doctoral researcher in September 2023. Kirsten's cross-appointment with the Research Hub of EDID-GHDI, Political Science, and the Guelph Institute of Development Studies at the University of Guelph will allow her to continue her work as an academic and practitioner at the interconnections between human rights and peacebuilding.

The pandemic continues to affect us all in various ways, and it may be years before we can consider ourselves to be living in a post-pandemic society. In our inaugural Annual Report 2020–21, we acknowledged that the “ongoing emergency ... has affected every aspect of our lives... [and called] on our communities and each other to make space for people to grieve, rest, and recover. We also [called] on our communities to resist a return to “normal” that ignores the systemic inequalities long embedded in education, on our campus, and in society....” In last year's Annual Report 2021–22, we acknowledged that we were not yet, as we had hoped to be, “immersed in creating a post-pandemic society, one that supports more equitable livelihoods and well-being.” This year, as we revisited the past to build our future, we re-committed to continuing our research starting from the margins, to explore the effects on diverse families and individual well-being, changes in work and livelihoods, factors that shape work and family relationships, needed policy changes, and community actions.

Deborah Stienstra

Director, Live Work Well Research Centre
Jarislowsky Chair in Families and Work



vision
work
values

**Our Vision, Work,
and Values**



Our Vision:

Through our research and Centre activities, we connect with and cultivate communities to allow diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments to flourish.

Our Work:

Anticipating, learning, and being responsive to the changing needs of diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments through research, teaching, and accessible knowledge sharing, including policy-relevant and community-engaged activities.

Our Values:

In addition to the values identified in the [2017 College of Social and Applied Human Sciences \(CSAHS\) Strategic Plan](#), the Centre values:

- Recognizing the persistent and unequal effects of colonization on Indigenous peoples and all others
- Pursuing reconciliation and decolonization through our work
- Engaging in research that centres individual lives and communities
- Centering care and acknowledging our care responsibilities and care needs in the work we do
- Responding to the care needs and diverse responsibilities of our members and ourselves drawing on feminist, Indigenous, disabled, queer, critical race, intersectional, and community approaches
- Situating our disciplinary and interdisciplinary research within these approaches
- Modelling and strengthening equitable, respectful, and reciprocal relationships near and far
- Advancing opportunities for students and interested communities to grow, share, and collaborate
- Supporting the well-being of our members
- Reflecting on where we have been and where we want to go together
- Celebrating our collective successes

Our Strategic Plan 2023–27



We are excited to roll out the Live Work Well Research Centre's 2023–27 Strategic Plan to guide our work with diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments over the next five years.

In March 2023, the LWWRC embarked on the process of renewing our strategic plan. We invited our partners and collaborators to join us in discussions over two sessions to reflect, discuss, recommit, and reimagine the Centre's vision, work, values, and goals. Each session focused on different sets of discussion topics. The sessions were held in a hybrid format, with options to attend either in-person or virtually, and we also invited feedback and comments by email. Seventeen participants attended across both sessions.

Session 1 focused on

- Revisiting the Centre's vision, work, values, and goals from our 2017–22 Strategic Plan
- Reflecting on where we are today and how we got here, involving discussions on our successes, challenges, opportunities, and areas for growth

Session 2 focused on

- Identifying where we want to go over the next five years
- Outlining the actions, knowledge, and resources we will need to achieve our goals

Following the two meetings, LWWRC staff compiled summary notes from the discussion to incorporate into a draft of the revised strategic plan, which was sent to participants and other key contacts for feedback.

Through this process, we reaffirmed the Centre's five key priorities: Research Activities, Student Engagement and Development, Community Engagement, Communities of Practice, and Knowledge Mobilization. We reworked the goals and measurable actions to guide our activities and ensure links and collaboration with other parts of CSAHS, the University, and our broader communities.

We invite you to read the
Strategic Plan 2023–27 on our website

Around the Centre – Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals



Sharon Findlay

Project Manager, Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development

Sharon Findlay (she/her) started in December 2022 as the Project Manager providing leadership and support for the day-to-day activities of the Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development-Genre, handicap et développement inclusif (EDID-GHDI) partnership, as well as the complementary WAGE-funded Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition (CFDC). Sharon has a background in project development and international collaborations in secondary and post-secondary education. Her research at the University of Guelph, where she earned her BA and MA in European Studies, centred around connecting people and their stories; her work looks at migration, oral history, individual and collective memory, and the concept of home.

With a particular interest in the representations of narratives through art and performance, Sharon has experience managing an international chamber music festival in southern Italy and co-founding Italian Heritage Projects in collaboration with the Italian Studies program at the University of Guelph to collect and curate stories from Italian immigrants to Canada. Additionally, Sharon consults as a freelance grant writer and project developer in the heritage and arts sectors.



Madison Harrison

Communications Student

Madison Harrison (she/her) has joined the LWWRC from September 2023 to April 2024 as the Communications Student, supporting the Centre's knowledge mobilization initiatives through social media, blogs, and the website. Madison is in the final year of her undergraduate degree in the Environmental Governance (EGOV) program, minoring in Political Sciences with a focus in Indigenous Environmental Governance and inclusion. Previous experiences with non-profit organizations have made Madison passionate about how society is impacted by environmental and social issues and how education on such can be made more accessible. She is excited to be supporting the Centre in this.



Lenore Latta

Research and Knowledge Mobilization Manager

Lenore Latta (she/her) started in May 2023 as the Research and Knowledge Mobilization Manager (RKMbM). She comes to the Live Work Well Research Centre from Writing Services at the University of Guelph, where she supported the development of academic writing skills for students, staff, and faculty. She worked with writers individually to review and advise on assignments, theses and dissertations, proposals, and research articles. In that role, she also developed and taught writing workshops for native and non-native speakers of English. In addition, she has worked as a freelance writer and editor and has taught business and technical communications courses at Conestoga College.

In the RKMbM position, Lenore provides strategic and operational leadership to raise the profile and impact of the Centre in the University and in the local, national, and international community. She initiates, develops, manages, and evaluates research and knowledge mobilization plans with and for the Centre and its diverse academic and community partners. She applies collaborative, intersectional approaches to research projects and knowledge mobilization activities to ensure all work connected to the Centre is aligned with its goals and priorities for cultivating and connecting thriving communities and environments.



Kirsten Van Houten

Post-Doctoral Researcher

We welcomed Dr. Kirsten Van Houten (she/her) at the end of August 2023 as a post-doctoral researcher with EDID-GHDI, Political Science, and the Guelph Institute of Development Studies at the University of Guelph.

Since completing her PhD in International Development Studies at the University of Ottawa, Kirsten has worked as an academic and practitioner at the human rights and peacebuilding nexus. Through this work, she has collaborated with local communities mobilizing for peace and human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippines, Palestine, India, Canada, and elsewhere. She has also worked with Canadian political parties and non-governmental organizations to advocate for improved policy on peacebuilding. Her research interests include peacebuilding, civil society, human rights, state fragility, Canadian foreign policy, gender equality, and disability.

Kirsten is currently undertaking a number of research and publication projects:

As part of the EDID-GHDI partnership, she is developing a new research program that explores the way that disabled women and girls have organized individually and collectively to have their interests represented in peacebuilding and post-conflict development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This project will complement her existing work documenting the contributions of Congolese civil society organizations to peacebuilding efforts in South Kivu.

In addition, Kirsten is currently co-editing a book with Alex Neve on Canada's international engagement at the human rights and peacebuilding nexus, being published by Palgrave. The book will include contributions from a range of academics and civil society leaders. This is her second edited volume after co-editing [**Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Global Governance of Violence: Critical Reflections on the Uncertain Future of Peace**](#) with Timothy Donais and Alistair Edgar.

She also has an ongoing research project on *Voices at Risk: Canada's Guidelines on Supporting Human Rights Defenders* to understand how the policy was developed and how it is being implemented through Canadian embassies abroad.



Departures

Moira Forster

We are grateful for the contributions of Moira Forster (she/her), who supported communications activities in the LWWRC for her final Co-Op work term in summer 2023. With her background in supporting community-engaged research, specifically with disability and sexuality, Moira contributed greatly to the coordination and success of the hybrid Reimagining Livelihoods Forum in August. We wish Moira the best in her final year of the undergraduate psychology program at the University of Guelph and in her future pursuits!

Michael Lanc

We are happy to have worked with Michael Lanc (he/him), who departed the Centre in May 2023 after serving as a Communications URA since early 2022. Michael initially began as a URA on the EDID-GHDI project in Fall 2021, and transitioned into a Centre-wide communications role, primarily responsible for managing the LWWRC Twitter account, blog, and quarterly newsletters. It was a pleasure to have Michael as part of the team, and we wish him success in his future endeavours!

Alex Sawatzky

We are sad to say goodbye to Dr. Alex Sawatzky (she/her), who worked with us as the Centre's Research and Knowledge Mobilization Manager from June 2022 to April 2023. Building from her background and experience in community-engaged, place-based research and relationship-building, Alex provided strategic and operational leadership to develop and manage research and knowledge mobilization plans with and for the Centre and its diverse academic and community partners. Alex's leadership and input was integral to a number of the Centre's projects, including this year's strategic planning process. We wish Alex the best in her future pursuits and are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with her!

Research Activities

The LWWRC strategic goal for Research Activities is to support Cluster and cross-Cluster research activities in line with our Vision and Values. As part of our Strategic Plan, Cluster Leads ensure the vibrancy and functioning of their respective Cluster and work with other Clusters in cross-Cluster activities. The Centre provides resources and support for the five intersecting Research Clusters; brings Clusters together annually to imagine, reflect, prioritize, and allocate support for research activities; amplifies these activities through knowledge mobilization, grant administration, and coordination, in consultation with the CSAHS and University research offices; and initiates Centre-wide activities where appropriate.



LWWRC research is focused on five intersecting Research Clusters.

Research Cluster Leads and Co-Leads



Dr. Kim Anderson
(she/her)

Cluster Lead,
“All My Relations” Indigenous
Ways of Knowing



Dr. Leah Levac
(she/her)

Cluster Co-Lead,
Displacements, Emergence,
and Change



Dr. Deborah Stienstra
(she/her)

Cluster Co-Lead,
Displacements, Emergence,
and Change | Cluster Lead,
Disabilities, Access,
and Inclusion



Dr. Roberta Hawkins
(she/her)

Cluster Co-Lead,
Reimagining Care



Amy Kipp
PhD Candidate (she/her)

Cluster Co-Lead,
Reimagining Care



Malissa Bryan
PhD Candidate (they/them)

Cluster Co-Lead,
Sexual and Gender Diversity



Dr. Adam Davies
(they/them)

Cluster Co-Lead,
Sexual and Gender Diversity



Dr. Rion Neustifter
(they/them)

Cluster Co-Lead,
Sexual and Gender Diversity

“All My Relations” Indigenous Ways of Knowing Cluster

Led by Kim Anderson, the “All My Relations” Cluster is focused on Indigenous mentoring and networking as well as providing land-based learning and activities. The Cluster also works to provide space on campus for Indigenous knowledges and practices, with projects that support the development of gardens and ceremonial spaces in the University Arboretum through the building of a grandmother-space research hub called “Nokom’s House.”

Project Highlights

Through this project, the All My Relations Cluster aims to “re-story” the erasure of Indigenous peoples in settler-colonial urban spaces, specifically in Guelph, ON.

The project has collected archival material from the University of Guelph Archives, the Guelph Civic Museum Archives, and the Wellington County Archives, including documented information about Indigenous narratives, histories, and human/non-human relations in the Guelph area.

The project team has collected and synthesized a variety of sources into an environmental scan. These sources describe global and local projects that have endeavoured to decolonize place narratives and amplify Indigenous voices, narratives, and histories. Such activities have included decolonial expressions of place-based poetry, place (re)naming, performance cartography, counter mapping, film, digital reconstructions, murals, photography, storytelling, architecture, urban design, and introduction of ceremonial spaces.

Undergraduate and graduate research assistants have begun the preliminary stages of data analysis for archival material and the environmental scan.

Project team members have identified mapping as a potential avenue for decolonizing the narrative of Guelph. They have acquired for analysis maps of Guelph, surrounding areas, and the Speed and Eramosa rivers ranging from the 1820s to present. They can identify plant and animal relations, culturally significant sites, and Indigenous place names on such maps to oppose the colonial nature of conventional maps.

Ongoing ceremony is taking place at significant sites, particularly at the Speed and Eramosa rivers and their intersection (“Where the Rivers Meet”).

The research team meets once every month, in addition to other meetings in collaboration with the Guelph Civic Museum and the City of Guelph. The team has planned landscaping opportunities for the project. The project will aim to incorporate significant plant relations into the exhibit by growing them on-site.

The team plans to begin oral histories with community members.



Disabilities, Access, and Inclusion Cluster

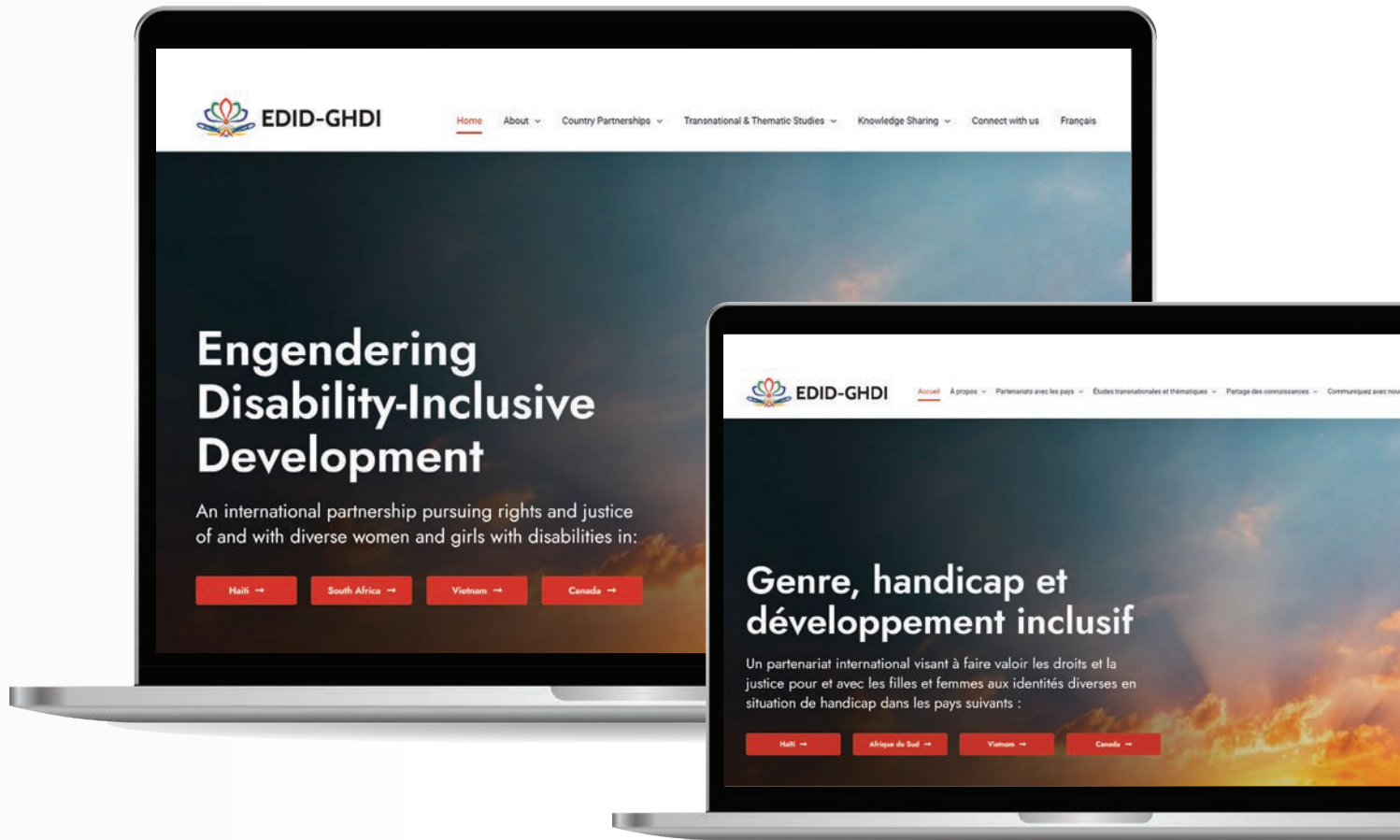
Led by Deborah Stienstra, the Disabilities, Access, and Inclusion Cluster takes an intersectional approach to exploring experiences of disability. Cluster projects include livelihoods and disabilities, disability-inclusive development, women with disabilities, and Indigenous approaches to disabilities. The Cluster considers Canadian and international disability legislation and seeks to evaluate and inform social policy to facilitate the inclusion of workers with disabilities. The Cluster highlights the importance of the participation of people with disabilities, particularly of women with disabilities.

Project Highlights

Disability & Livelihoods in Canada Partnership

The Disability & Livelihoods in Canada partnership held a meeting on August 22, 2023, to update members of the partnership on research and knowledge mobilization progress as we near the end of the three-year partnership in March 2024. Participants attended from the three Pilot projects, the Livelihoods Circle, and the Knowledge Mobilization Circle. The agenda included an overview of the status of the partnership, updates from Pilots and Circles, discussion of the approach for the Reimagining Livelihoods multimedia platform that is in development, and reflections on what partners will take with them from the project. The following are some highlights:

- Results from interviews for Pilot 1 on Disabilities and Volunteering will be included in several articles and book chapters in progress.
- Data from Pilot 2 on Disability, Art & Artistry (“Artistry Under the Table: d/Deaf and Disabled Artist Livelihoods in Canada”) has informed a number of presentations and publications; a submission to a Federal Canada Heritage Roundtables Written Policy Submission; and a 2021 episode of the [podcast Disability Saves the World](#). In addition, questions developed for the research were used by hosts of the [Crip Times podcast](#) to query the socio-material barriers experienced by non-normative artists and cultural producers.
- Pilot 3 research on Young Women with Disabilities and Pre-Employment Supports was presented at our Reimagining Livelihoods Forum on August 23–24, 2023, and will be incorporated into a book chapter as well as a self-advocacy tool and several knowledge briefs.
- The Livelihoods Circle gathered the partnership several times for collaborative analysis, and from that developed a codebook for analyzing the interviews. Theresa Lee, the lead for the Livelihoods Circle, presented on a paper to the American Political Science Association titled “Livelihood and Livability: Understanding Disability as a Way of Life.”
- The Knowledge Mobilization Circle works to ensure that the above publications and products effectively disseminate research and findings from the Pilot projects.



Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development Partnership

The partnership launched its bilingual, accessible [EDID-GHDI website](http://www.edid-ghdi.ca) (www.edid-ghdi.ca) on December 3, 2023, to commemorate [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#). This website will be an important resource for research collaboration and knowledge mobilization, not only for the partnership, but also for others outside EDID-GHDI. The website provides information about aspects of the partnership as well as the important research being conducted on the struggles of diverse women and girls with disabilities for, and progress towards, disability-inclusive development.

In addition, our team spent many hours preparing the October 31 submission of the mid-term report for the seven-year EDID-GHDI partnership, 2020–27. The funding agency, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), requires this report as documentation on the progress and success of 3.5 years of research, collaboration, and engagement from four country teams, transnational and thematic studies, the Student Network, the Disability Partners' Caucus, and many more aspects of the partnership. This is a significant milestone in the partnership, as a successful mid-term report will result in approval and securement of funds to continue the valuable project for the duration of the grant. We will hear the results and evaluation of our work early in the new year and will share them at that time.



Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition

The Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition–la Coalition féministe canadienne sur le handicap (CFDC-CFCH) is a 30-month project established by the Live Work Well Research Centre in November 2021 in partnership with the DisAbled Women’s Network of Canada (DAWN-RAFH Canada). The CFDC builds the leadership and advocacy skills of diverse women and girls with disabilities to become agents of change for their rights in Canada, as well as creating opportunities for collaboration and connection.

Siobhan Grant, Project Coordinator, and Sharon Findlay, Project Manager, provide support to the project until March 2024, when the network will transfer to its new home with DAWN-RAFH Canada. The CFDC is currently comprised of the Live Work Well Research Centre (LWWRC), as well as the key partners DAWN-RAFH Canada, Indigenous Disability Canada/British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (IDC/BCANDS), and the Disability Justice Network of Ontario (DJNO).

Funded by the federal department of Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), the CFDC engages in systemic change to support a feminist response and recovery from the inequitable impacts of COVID-19 in Canada. The CFDC team is inclusive of diverse women and girls with disabilities, recognizing a spectrum of physical, intellectual, and mental health disabilities and impairments, as well as how disabilities intersect with experiences of racialization, gender diversity, age, and living situations.

The Canadian government’s COVID-19 response has highlighted the significant gaps and barriers in social, economic, and political legislation, policies, and practices encountered by diverse women and girls with disabilities. Diverse women and girls with disabilities are underrepresented in leadership, advocacy, and research in Canada. The experiences and knowledge of women and girls with disabilities are often ignored or added after the fact in gender-equality initiatives. This means that diverse women with disabilities encounter high rates of unemployment, poverty, violence, and victimization, as well as facing significant barriers to education and healthcare.

The CFDC addresses these significant gaps and issues as well as fostering policies and practices that empower and advance diverse women and girls with disabilities in leadership, participation, and advocacy across economic, social, and political spheres. The CFDC also networks and collaborates with stakeholders to advance gender equality and tackle discriminatory policies and practices that affect the full economic, social, and political status of diverse women and girls with disabilities.

In order to network and collaborate with various civil society, community, and advocacy stakeholders to advance gender equality for diverse women and girls with disabilities, the CFDC convened and engaged a 10-member advisory group and four regional hubs consisting of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada. The CFDC project was pleased to host a National Meet and Greet on May 31, 2023, which marked the first gathering of the CFDC team, the Regional Coordinators, and their hub members. It was a great opportunity for everyone involved in the project to get to know each other and establish common goals and the purpose of the project. Some of their regular functions and activities include a Facebook Group and monthly workshops. For Fall 2023, they plan to hold two digital workshop series, each spanning five weeks, where participants will have the opportunity to share their unique lived experience through various digital media, culminating in a short artistic digital storytelling piece.

For more information:

- Read the [December 2022 University of Guelph news release](#) announcing the project
- Read an [interview with the CFDC Project Coordinator](#), Siobhan Grant
- Read an [interview with two of the Regional Coordinators](#), Tamara Angeline Medford-Williams and Maggie Lyons-MacFarlane





LWWRRC staff and students at the Forum: (from left) Sharon Findlay, Benedicta Hughes, Moira Forster, Deborah Stienstra, Lenore Latta, and Aurora Matteocci.

Reimagining Livelihoods Project

Reimagining Livelihoods is an outreach project that shares results from community-engaged research on different forms of livelihoods and how they shape the experiences of diverse people in Canada and around the world. The Reimagining Livelihoods project has two main components: a livelihoods forum and a multimedia platform.

The Reimagining Livelihoods Forum, held August 23–24, 2023, was designed with accessibility, inclusion, and community engagement in mind. An organizing committee made up of community and academic partners guided its development. The overall goal of the Forum was to share, discuss, and engage with diverse perspectives, experiences, and knowledges about livelihoods.

The Forum solicited proposals that addressed three themes: (1) **Exploring different forms and dimensions of livelihoods**, including labour, employment, and livelihoods; parenting and livelihoods; graduate and mature students' experiences of livelihoods; well-being in and outside of institutional and formal work spaces; and material and non-material barriers to well-being; (2) **Using an intersectional livelihoods approach** to understand topics including influences of social contexts on livelihood choices; tensions around family support; in-person and online social networks; intersections of culture, race, ethnicity, and accessibility; health and disability; poverty, precarity, and homelessness; age and aging processes; gender and sexuality; gender-

based violence; education and training; and thinking through ways of making a living beyond paid employment; and (3) **Reimagining livelihoods** through asking how we can live and work well despite existing crises (e.g., growing economic inequality, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic); identifying and challenging power dynamics; creating new common grounds for building solidarity and resistance; and generating space and opportunities for creativity, care, and fulfilment within our homes, communities, and institutions.

The two-day Reimagining Livelihoods Forum was a hybrid event, with in-person components taking place at 10 Carden Shared Space, 42 Carden St., in Guelph, ON. The program consisted of 18 sessions provided by over 35 presenters, both online and in-person. The event was attended by 38 people in-person and 46 online.

Sessions included numerous presentations, three workshops, a panel, and an art display from LWWRC's Art in a Just Recovery project. Organizations represented a broad range of interests and focus on livelihoods, including Sustainable Livelihoods Canada; DAWN-RAFH Canada; t6talk Spinal Cord Injury, The Sexuality and Access Project 2023; Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW); Peel Institute of Research and Training—Family Services of Peel; and the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, Government of Barbados.

Researchers who presented their work on a variety of life and livelihood topics were from the University of Guelph; Wilfrid Laurier University; University of Toronto Scarborough; University of Toronto Mississauga; University of Ottawa; University of British Columbia; Northern New Mexico College; University of Groningen, the Netherlands; and University of Cape Town, South Africa.

The second component of the project, a multimedia platform, is in the planning stages, to be co-created by project partners and hosted by LWWRC to share the presentations, insights, and other outcomes of the forum in creative ways as well as to provide opportunities for ongoing engagement, contributions, and learning about livelihoods, and to serve as a resource for community leaders and decision-makers to support education, advocacy, and policy work.





Shadow Report for the Native Women's Association of Canada

The LWWRC completed a [Shadow Report](#) for the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) to present to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by the end of 2022. The report was written by Deborah Stienstra and Kaitlyn Pothier of the LWWRC with substantive contributions by an advisory group of Indigenous women. This work for the Shadow Report on the experiences of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people with disabilities built upon the issues identified in a September 2021 background paper by Deborah Stienstra and Kathryn Reinders. The research team conducted a literature review that formed the basis for the comments and recommendations in the Shadow Report. They invited several Indigenous researchers, community members, and students to contribute to the process through an advisory committee to the project. The report addresses 17 key issues faced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people with disabilities. Work is underway to develop a factsheet and a Q&A document to accompany the report.

Displacements, Emergence, and Change Cluster

Co-led by Leah Levac and Deborah Stienstra, the Displacements, Emergence, and Change Cluster focuses on building inclusive cities, communities, towns, and governance models to respond to displacements that result from resource extraction, lack of living wages, and other broad socioeconomic and political shifts and challenges. The Cluster also examines how communities can be places where diverse families, livelihoods, and all living environments thrive.

Project Highlights

Integrating Gender-Based Analysis Plus in Health Impact Assessment

Building on past and ongoing work focused on the experiences and efforts of diverse northern and Indigenous women in shaping resource-related policy decisions, Deborah Stienstra, Leah Levac, and Jane Stinson (CRIAW/Carleton) partnered with Dr. Faiza Waheed (Intrinsik) to develop a set of guidelines for *Integrating Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) in Health Impact Assessment (HIA)*. The guidelines, designed to support the practice of resource project proponents as well as project reviewers, were presented to approximately 50 federal public servants from Health Canada and elsewhere in a webinar held in March 2023. Deborah, Leah, and Faiza subsequently used the guidelines to develop training for federal public sector workers to better equip them to assess the integration of GBA Plus in HIA. This training will be delivered in November 2023 to approximately 40 public sector employees.



Gender-Based Indigenous Intersectional Impact Assessment (IA) Network (GiiiA Network)

Concurrently with the work on integrating GBA Plus in HIA, Leah, Deborah, Jane, and several other collaborators came together at the end of the summer 2023 to form the nationwide GiiiA Network to begin in January 2024. We are pleased to be collaborating on this important initiative with Jackie Neapole and Olivia Atsin of CRIAW-ICREF; federal and provincial public sector employees; Alexandra Bridges from Keepers of the Circle; and Johanna Tuglavina from the AnânauKatiget Tuningit Regional Inuit Women's Association, and we are excited to realize its potential. The GiiiA Network is funded by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and has the objectives of:

- Sharing knowledge between practitioners, policy makers, and researchers about good practices and possible strategies to include GBA Plus and Culturally Relevant (CR) GBA Plus in IA;
- Developing tools and resources to support good practices in GBA Plus / CRGBA Plus in IA;
- Creating and hosting a database of (i) academic and community research related to GBA Plus / CRGBA Plus in IA; and (ii) project examples and IA documents that demonstrate effective GBA Plus and CRGBA Plus (when available);
- Fostering interjurisdictional learning and relationships amongst GBA Plus / CRGBA Plus in IA practitioners, policy makers, and researchers to encourage more streamlined IA processes; and
- Creating knowledge and practice related to using GBA Plus / CRGBA Plus in IA to advance environmental justice.



PODCAST SERIES SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES ON POVERTY



Storied Lives

The Storied Lives team continues to build community outreach with its 4-part podcast series, *Storied Lives: Shifting Perspectives on Poverty*, which illuminates and grapples with the complex realities of living with poverty. The series was created by the Displacements, Emergence, and Change Cluster in partnership with the Community-Engaged Scholarship Institute and the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination (PTF). Launched in June 2022, the series features composite stories that highlight diverse, lived experience as well as commentary from experts in fields related to poverty elimination. As of August 2023, the podcasts have a permanent home on the PTF website. Surveys accompanying the podcasts encourage listeners to reflect on their perspectives on poverty, both pre- and post-listening. Results of the surveys, intended to encourage listeners to reflect on their own perspectives, are being collected and analyzed. Listen to the [Storied Lives podcasts](https://www.gwpoverity.ca/storied-lives-podcast) on the PTF website (<https://www.gwpoverity.ca/storied-lives-podcast>).

An Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Analysis of Core District of Kitimat Policy Documents

In collaboration with the District of Kitimat (DOK), which rests on Haisla territory in the northwest of present-day Canada, a community-based project team led by Leah Levac completed a review of four core municipal policy documents using a locally developed analysis framework that builds on the [intersectionality-based policy analysis framework by Hankivsky et al. \(2012\)](#), while accounting for local realities. They also created a tool to help guide the District's future policy and planning activities. These results were received by the Mayor and Council of the DOK in March 2023. The final report, *An Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Analysis of Core District of Kitimat Policy Documents*, will be publicly available on the DOK's website. Parts of this work were featured at this year's annual conference of the Canadian Political Science Association in May 2023.

Striving for Equity, Inclusion, and Safer Spaces at Work: A Review of the Literature

In the fall of 2022, our team completed [Striving for Equity, Inclusion, and Safer Spaces at Work: A Review of the Literature](#). Lead author and recent MA graduate, Mikaela Beijbom, worked closely with collaborators at the University of New Brunswick and industry partner Calian. This research, funded through a Mitacs Accelerate grant, will inform future curricula developed by Calian.



Reimagining Care Cluster

In our Winter 2023 newsletter, we announced that the Integrating Care and Livelihoods Cluster, co-led by Roberta Hawkins and Amy Kipp, had officially changed its name to Reimagining Care to better reflect the work of the cluster and the directions of the work moving forward. Research in the Reimagining Care Cluster considers how care is, and could be, practiced in academic, community, and digital spaces. It focuses on imagining alternative, more caring futures across these three areas and the transformational potential of everyday practices of care. It considers families, livelihoods, and living environments from feminist, anti-oppressive, and other critical perspectives.

Project Highlights

A First-Year Seminar: Who Cares? Do You? **Exploring what it means to care in a rapidly changing world**

During the winter 2023 semester, two members of Roberta Hawkins' research team—PhD candidates Amy Kipp and Leah Govia—led a first-year seminar exploring care across various scales. In this course, students and instructors investigated what it means to care, and care well, in our rapidly changing world. This course created a space for students to consider how care is practiced and resourced in their own lives and communities and across distance and difference. For their final assignment, students wrote a series of blogs applying course concepts to an issue or topic that they care about. We will be sharing the students' blogs and course curriculum once the materials are finalized.





The moment the Art in a Just Recovery mural was unveiled at the Guelph Farmer's Market. Photo credit: Michelle Peek, Art Not Shame.

Art in a Just Recovery

The mural “Art in a Just Recovery: Reconnecting to Us” was unveiled in June 2023 as a part of the ongoing community-based research project conducted in partnership with Cluster Co-lead Amy Kipp, Art Not Shame, the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, and social artist Melanie Schambach. The mural is permanently housed at the Guelph Farmers’ Market and can also be viewed online on [Art Not Shame’s website](#). Over 100 community members attended the unveiling event, which included live music, artmaking, and a panel discussion of participants sharing their stories of community care and collective artmaking. An exhibit of the individual art pieces that made up the mural was displayed during the LWWRC’s Reimagining Livelihoods Forum in August 2023.

Imagining a Caring University—A Creative Workshop

In August 2023, during the LWWRC’s Reimagining Livelihoods Forum, Reimagining Care Cluster Co-leads Amy Kipp and Roberta Hawkins, along with Leah Levac, hosted “Imagining a Caring University—A Creative Workshop.” Together with workshop participants we discussed what it means to be a more caring university and identified concrete changes to everyday practices and academic systems and policies that could improve the work-lives of those who engage with, study, or work in academia. In the coming months, we will be releasing a zine to share ideas that emerged during the workshop.

Sexual and Gender Diversity Cluster

Rion Neustifter, Adam Davies, and Malissa Bryan co-lead the Sexual and Gender Diversity Cluster, which researches the themes of sexuality, gender, sex, and relationships. It considers the intersection of these themes in their diverse forms and how they relate to families, work, and well-being. The Sexual and Gender Diversity Cluster prioritizes the intersectional diversity of sexual and gender identities and seeks to improve the well-being of individuals through high-quality and value-driven research, teaching, mentorship, and community engagement.

Project Highlights

Sexual and Gender Diversity Receives Two SSHRC-funded Projects

Adam Davies received funding for two SSHRC-funded projects. The first, *Towards a More Inclusive Early Childhood Education Workforce: Challenging the Stigma of Male-Identified ECEs Working in the Field*, aims to establish an understanding of the attitudes towards and perspectives of male-identified Early Childhood Educators in Ontario, where a research vacuum currently exists. The second, *Supplement Usage Within GBT2Q Men & Nonbinary Communities: An Investigation of Psychological Determinants*, aims to fill knowledge gaps and better understand the trends of dietary supplement use among GBT2Q and nonbinary individuals in Canada.

Book Publication

A forthcoming book with University of Toronto Press, co-edited by Adam Davies and Dr. Cameron Greensmith of Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA, is entitled *Queering Professionalism: Problems, Potentials, and Possibilities in Neoliberal Times*. It includes a chapter by Malissa Bryan. Adam and Cameron's edited collection seeks to disrupt and challenge the cis-heteronormativity within highly regulated helping professions and their respective post-secondary education programs.

Calls for Papers and Chapters


Adam Davies is reviewing calls for papers for two special issues and a call for chapters for one edited collection that they are leading. The calls for papers are on Critical Femininities in Education: Feminizing Educational Pedagogies and Curricula for a Special Issue of *Journal of Femininities*, and on Epistemic Injustice in Early Childhood Education and Care for a Special Issue of *Journal of Childhood Studies*. The call for chapters is for a book titled *Disrupting Developmentalism*, to be published by Canadian Scholars.



Student Engagement and Development

The LWWRC strategic goal for Student Engagement and Development is to create and connect with opportunities for students to develop research and collaboration skills, gain experience in community-engaged practices, support and learn from peers, and engage in Centre activities, in collaboration with institutional and community partners. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre facilitates and supports opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to engage in and contribute to Centre and Research Cluster work; students connect and network with other students to incubate their ideas, share their strategies, and provide support and feedback; the Centre explores ways to recognize and celebrate student contributions to Centre and Cluster work through monetary and non-monetary means; and the Centre and Clusters encourage students to present and share research at Centre events or through the Centre's website and social media.

PhD candidate Kathryn Reinders initiated a **Student Network** for students in the EDID-GHDI partnership to encourage ongoing peer-to-peer conversations and exchange of information. The Student Network met virtually for the first time at our June 2022 EDID-GHDI partnership team meeting, and they continue to connect online. They are hoping to have more frequent meetings this coming year.



Over the past year, the Live Work Well Research Centre continued to attract and engage thoughtful and committed students across disciplines and levels in its research activities, and we are grateful for all their contributions:

LWWRC Co-op Students, Work-Study Students, & Research Assistants

Moira Forster,
Co-op Student (BA.PSYC)

Madison Harrison,
Work-Study Student (BA.EGOV)

Michael Lanc,
URA (BA.POLS and PHIL)

Sandhya Seeram,
URA (BA.PSYC)

Disability & Livelihoods in Canada

Kimberlee Collins (PhD.Social and Behavioural Health Sciences, UofT)

Dilshan Fernando (PhD.SOAN)

Valérie Grand'Maison (PhD.SOAN)

Valerie Hruska (PhD.HHNS)

Jessica Lukawiecki (PhD.GEOG)

Kathryn Reinders (PhD.SOPR)

EDID-GHDI

Fabian Garcia (PhD.SOPR+IDS)

Valérie Grand'Maison (PhD.SOAN)

Kaitlyn Hunter (MA.CCJP)

Michael Lanc (BA.POLS and PHIL)

Michelle Lapierre (PhD.Intercultural Studies, Temuco Catholic University, Chile)

Elizabeth Leier (PhD.POLS, UOttawa)

Jessica Lukawiecki (PhD.GEOG)

Stella (Hkaung) Naw (MA.POLS)

Ariel Pinol (MA.CWCN)

Kathryn Reinders (PhD.SOPR)

Madison Snider (MA.Critical Disability Studies, York University)

Tess Wortley, URA (BA.IDEV)

Reimagining Livelihoods

Moira Forster, Co-op Student (BA.PSYC)

Jon Klaassen (MA.POLS)

Aurora Matteocci (MA.IDS)

Jessie Zawadzki (PhD.FRAN)

Shadow Report for United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Native Women's Association of Canada)

Kaitlyn Pothier (MA.CCJP)

Storied Lives

Aidan Lockhart (PhD.SOAN)

Vanessa Smikle (MA.GEOG)

Workplace Equity & Diversity Theories & Practices (MITACS)

Mikaela Beijbom (MA.PSYC)

Community Engagement

The LWWRC strategic goal for Community Engagement is to demonstrate good practices in critical and justice-oriented community engagement. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre and Clusters pursue local, national, and international partnerships that model and strengthen equitable, respectful, and reciprocal relationships; create reciprocal and co-learning opportunities and events to reinforce and learn from the existing strengths and skills of community partners and researchers; collaborate on and co-create projects with partners in order to ensure partner benefits (as defined by partners); and establish and strengthen relationships with community partners through Centre-initiated and Cluster-led events.





Partner Spotlight

Our research thrives on the engagement and support of our diverse community partners, whose perspectives, experiences, and expertise inform every stage of our projects. This year, we are delighted to highlight one of these partners.

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW)

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women-l'Institut canadien de recherches sur les femmes (CRIAW-ICREF) is a not-for-profit, member-based organization dedicated to providing the tools to help organizations and activists in taking actions against social injustices and inequality of women. CRIAW-ICREF is the only national bilingual feminist organization in Canada dedicated to researching and documenting the social and economic circumstances of women in Canada. They do this through feminist, intersectional frameworks in their research and analysis.

CRIAW-ICREF aims to recognize women's diverse experiences and perspectives; create spaces for developing women's knowledge; bridge regional isolation; and provide communication links between and among researchers and organizations.

Their work is in partnership with different sectors across the country, through their own research and action methods, and through helping their partners conduct meaningful public consultations and produce accessible materials. CRIAW-ICREF collaborates with many feminist organizations, equity-seeking organizations, labour unions, researchers, universities, and government departments, agencies, and municipalities. One of its latest research projects, "Building Capacity for Intersectional Advocacy on Women's Issues," is about embracing intersectionality as an important tool to eliminate inequalities for women. CRIAW-ICREF publishes the *Feminist Word (F-Word)*, a bilingual magazine written and produced by young feminists who work at CRIAW-ICREF that aims to give young feminists a platform to express their thoughts and priorities about women's rights in Canada and makes feminist research accessible for public advocacy and education.

CRIAW-ICREF is currently in partnership with the LWWRC and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Research Program in a three-year project. (See the description in Gender-Based Indigenous Intersectional Impact Assessment (IA) Network (GiiiA Network) under Research Activities.)

Communities of Practice

The LWWRC's strategic goal for Communities of Practice is to convene and connect with communities of practice among members of the Centre's community including faculty, students, and community partners to extend our circle of knowledge across a wide spectrum of disciplines as well as scholarly and lived experiences. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre collaborates with the CSAHS and University research offices that offer opportunities for students and researchers to build learning networks, workshop early ideas, and learn grant-development and management skills; and seeks opportunities to establish specific communities of practice to facilitate interacting and learning together on a regular basis.

Currently, professors in global development studies at the University of Guelph, Dalhousie University, and the University of Ottawa meet every semester in a **community of practice on disability and global development** to share resources and ideas for bringing disability into their courses.



Knowledge Mobilization



The LWWRC's strategic goal for Knowledge Mobilization is to share knowledge from current and past activities widely, in multiple and accessible formats, reaching diverse audiences successfully. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre builds and implements a renewed knowledge mobilization plan and evaluation components. This plan includes maintaining an accessible website, featuring past and present research work as well as resources for those inside and outside the University; maintaining a social media presence to support the work of the Centre, its partners, and community members; ensuring the Centre is following best and promising practices and continues to mobilize knowledge in innovative and accessible ways; developing and disseminating KMb products that draw upon and highlight Centre and Cluster research; hosting and providing support for Centre-initiated and Cluster-supporting events and workshops; and regularly assessing our relationships and evaluating the effectiveness of our knowledge mobilization strategies with partners inside and outside the university.

During the year, the Centre generated project-related reports, toolkits, policy briefs, factsheets, and infographics to support knowledge-sharing in the community, many of which can be found in the [Knowledge Sharing & Publications section of our website](#). Also read issues of our newsletter, [News that Nourishes](#).

The Centre also hosted events, including

- “Imagining a More Just University” Panel Discussion (hybrid)—Guelph, ON, November 2022
- “More than a Footnote” Policy Forum (hybrid)—Ottawa, ON, December 2022
- “Imagining a More Just University” Follow-up Discussion (online)—February 2023
- Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition (CFDC) National Meet and Greet (online)—May 2023
- Disability & Livelihoods in Canada Wrap-up Meeting (hybrid)—Guelph, ON, August 2023
- Reimagining Livelihoods Forum (hybrid)—Guelph, ON, August 2023

Imagining a More Just University

On November 15, 2022, the LWWRC hosted a panel discussion which invited guests to consider how we can create more just academic spaces. Serving as moderator, Leah Levac asked our panelists how we can eliminate barriers to access and ensure equity for everyone in academia. The panelists included

- Adam Davies (they/them), Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
- Roberta Hawkins (she/her), Geography, Environment, and Geomatics
- Suman Roy (he/him), Feed Scarborough, Meal Exchange
- Jena-Lee Ashley (she/her), Vice President External, Central Student Association
- Nicole Walker (she/her), President, Central Student Association

A diverse range of issues was explored through the panel, including (hetero)sexism and ableism, overwork, barriers to accommodation, and food insecurity. Check out our blog post summarizing the [highlights of Imagining a More Just University](#) or read the [event summary](#), including an event transcript and video recording.

In February 2023, we hosted a follow-up discussion to “Imagining a More Just University.” In the follow-up, our event panelists considered opportunities for action moving forward, including establishing opportunities for a campus coalition to increase collaboration, as well as looking for ways to facilitate feedback in campus budget discussions. LWWRC and the panelists are committed to acting on the discussions and ideas from the fall panel, and we are excited for where this path of learning will take us!

LWWRC 2022-23 Activities at a Glance



267
centre
members



6
events



521
twitter/X
followers

Understanding Disability as a Way of Life

In August 2023, Theresa Lee, Lead of the Livelihoods Circle for the Disability & Livelihoods in Canada (DLC) partnership, presented a paper titled “Livelihood and Livability: Understanding Disability as a Way of Life” at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. As a political theorist, Theresa offered her interpretation of transcripts from interviews with disabled individuals randomly selected from a handful of community partners in the DLC partnership research. The research project was based on the findings that the livelihoods approach is absent from policy making and academic studies on disability in the global North. Yet the positive correlation between disability and poverty is a long-noted problem that transcends the North-South divide. Using the livelihoods framework to study the everyday life of disabled individuals in developed countries such as Canada therefore provides us with a more comprehensive picture of understanding disability as a way of life shared among the largest minority group in the world, making up 15% of its total population and growing.

Theresa argues in the paper that it is our moral obligation to understand how disabled individuals live their lives when what is considered essential to one’s sense of well-being—economic security through employment—is denied to them disproportionately and persistently by society. Such an understanding is a moral obligation for all because disability is a social dynamic rather than a static condition. Moreover, understanding the life of a disabled person may help to shed light on what makes a life livable.

The paper was presented to an international academic audience gathered around a full-day ad hoc conference event dedicated entirely to the theme of disability and politics. As the only academic from a Canadian university at the meeting, Theresa took a few minutes to introduce the audience to the entire research project, which stood out from other papers at the event that were more typical of disability and politics, including policy studies, political organization, and political representation of the disabled community.



2

newsletters
published



10

blogs
published



189

blog
views



10,420

website
page views

Recent publications and other KMb products connected to the Centre

Beijbom, M. (2022). [Striving for Equity, Inclusion, and Safer Spaces at Work: A Review of the Literature](#). Live Work Well Research Centre, University of Guelph. Guelph, ON.

Grand'Maison, V., H. K. Reinders, L. Pin, J. Abbas, & D. Stienstra. (2023). [Cumulative and cascading impacts of invisibility: An intersectional approach to understanding the housing experiences of Canadians with disabilities during COVID-19](#). In A. Carey, S. Green, & L. Mauldin (Eds.), *Research in social science and disability, Volume 13: Disability in the time of pandemic* (pp. 31–48). Emerald Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1479-354720230000013003>

Levac, L., J. Stinson, & D. Stienstra. (2023). [Moving away from climate crises: Women's engagement in natural resource decision making and community monitoring](#). In A. J. Fletcher & M. G. Reed (Eds.), *Gender and the social dimensions of climate change: Rural and resource contexts of the Global North* (pp. 63–83). Routledge Earthscan.

Stienstra, D. (2022). [DDA Talks to Author and Professor Deborah Stienstra About the Current Disability Rights Landscape in Canada](#). [Audio podcast episode]. Developmental Disabilities Association.

Stienstra, D. (2022). [\(Th\)reading rights and justice: Women and girls with disabilities](#). *Global Society*, 37(3), 354–374. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13600826.2022.2146576>

Stienstra, D. (2023). [Percolating Systemic Change: Disability Justice with Dr. Deborah Stienstra](#). [Audio podcast episode]. Feminist Shift.

Stienstra, D., & K. Pothier. (2022). [Shadow Report for United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Experiences of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA people with disabilities](#). Native Women's Association of Canada.

Waheed, F., J. Stinson, L. Levac, D. Stienstra, & R. Tatham. (2023). *GBA Plus in HIA: Opportunities, practices and guidelines for the federal impact assessment process*. Prepared for Health Canada. Intrisik.



The Year Ahead

In the coming months, we look forward to continuing to connect with and cultivate communities to allow diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments to flourish. We have research projects finishing up, others on the go, and still others just starting. The LWWRC team is excited to see how the results of Cluster and cross-Cluster research contribute to our focus on livelihoods and well-being.

Become a Member!

Become a member of the Live Work Well Research Centre. It's free, and all researchers, students, and community members are welcome. We also encourage and welcome organizations that are already doing work on—or are interested in responding to—the changing needs of diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments.

Members of the Centre participate, collaborate, and contribute to knowledge sharing, research, and teaching in many areas. Visit the LWWRC website to sign up at <https://liveworkwell.ca/membership>.



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