

BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network
GIS group

Informal minutes – September 28/07

Attendees:

Sunny Mak (BCCDC)
Dawn Mooney (CHSPR-UBC)
Brendan Mather (VIHA)
Eleanor Setton (UVIC)

(note: many members of the group met in Ottawa at the CPHA conference Sept 18th, so fewer attendees on this call)

General discussion:

- Ian Parfitt is wondering if we can set another time for the regular call as he is teaching on Friday mornings. Suggestions are anytime on Mondays, Thursdays, or in the afternoon on Fridays. Eleanor will poll the group.
- Eleanor noted that the Wellness Atlas of BC is nearing completion, to be published as static maps. Included are maps of community centres, community recreations facilities, playing fields (running, ultimate, field hockey, lacrosse) and sports clubs (athletics, curling, baseball, softball, hockey, figure skating, soccer, golf) for the province. Eleanor will follow up re: getting access to these data.
- Pat Atherton let us know that BCEOHRN has some funds to help support the group. These funds could be used to support group meetings. Other ideas discussed during the call were using some funds to sponsor a guest speaker at a conference (for example, Mark Monmonnier for the upcoming Cartography conference – May 08) and helping with travel to the conference. Some kind of training session was also discussed, specifically regarding rate smoothing and trend analysis. Eleanor spoke to Pat about BCEOHRN intentions for the funding. Pat suggests that ideas that do not closely match BCEOHRN mandate would be considered, so we should be creative. Still, BCEOHRN's purpose is to increase networking and to support the formation of research teams around topics in environmental and occupational health. Let's do some thinking, and discuss at our next call.
- Eleanor is writing an application for GeoConnections funding in the capacity building category on behalf of the Population Health Data Access and Analysis Platform. We briefly discussed who might be potential collaborators.

Next call: TBA