



A HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN ALBERTA, 1919-2019

Lindsay McLaren, Donald W. M. Juzwishin, and Rogelio Velez Mendoza

ISBN 978-1-77385-546-2

THIS BOOK IS AN OPEN ACCESS E-BOOK. It is an electronic version of a book that can be purchased in physical form through any bookseller or on-line retailer, or from our distributors. Please support this open access publication by requesting that your university purchase a print copy of this book, or by purchasing a copy yourself. If you have any questions, please contact us at ucpress@ucalgary.ca

Cover Art: The artwork on the cover of this book is not open access and falls under traditional copyright provisions; it cannot be reproduced in any way without written permission of the artists and their agents. The cover can be displayed as a complete cover image for the purposes of publicizing this work, but the artwork cannot be extracted from the context of the cover of this specific work without breaching the artist's copyright.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: This open-access work is published under a Creative Commons licence. This means that you are free to copy, distribute, display or perform the work as long as you clearly attribute the work to its authors and publisher, that you do not use this work for any commercial gain in any form, and that you in no way alter, transform, or build on the work outside of its use in normal academic scholarship without our express permission. If you want to reuse or distribute the work, you must inform its new audience of the licence terms of this work. For more information, see details of the Creative Commons licence at: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/

UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE YOU MAY:

- read and store this document free of charge;
- distribute it for personal use free of charge;
- print sections of the work for personal use;
- read or perform parts of the work in a context where no financial transactions take place.

UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE YOU MAY NOT:

- gain financially from the work in any way;
- sell the work or seek monies in relation to the distribution of the work:
- use the work in any commercial activity of any kind;
- profit a third party indirectly via use or distribution of the work:
- distribute in or through a commercial body (with the exception of academic usage within educational institutions such as schools and universities);
- reproduce, distribute, or store the cover image outside of its function as a cover of this work;
- alter or build on the work outside of normal academic scholarship.



Acknowledgement: We acknowledge the wording around open access used by Australian publisher, **re.press**, and thank them for giving us permission to adapt their wording to our policy http://www.re-press.org

A HISTORY OF

PUBLIC HEALTH

IN ALBERTA

1919-2019

Lindsay McLaren Donald W. M. Juzwishin Rogelio Velez Mendoza

A HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN ALBERTA, 1919-2019



A HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN ALBERTA, 1919-2019

Lindsay McLaren Donald W. M. Juzwishin Rogelio Velez Mendoza © 2024 Lindsay McLaren, Donald W. M. Juzwishin, and Rogelio Velez Mendoza

University of Calgary Press 2500 University Drive NW Calgary, Alberta Canada T2N 1N4 press.ucalgary.ca

All rights reserved.

This book is available in an Open Access digital format published under a CC-BY-NCND 4.0 Creative Commons license. The publisher should be contacted for any commercial use which falls outside the terms of that license.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION

Title: A history of public health in Alberta, 1919-2019 / Lindsay McLaren, Donald W. M. Juzwishin, Rogelio Velez Mendoza.

Names: McLaren, Lindsay, author. | Juzwishin, Donald W. M. (Donald William Moore), 1953 - author. | Mendoza, Rogelio Velez, author.

Description: Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20240403134 | Canadiana (ebook) 20240403185 | ISBN 9781773855455 (softcover) | ISBN 9781773855448 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781773855486 (EPUB) | ISBN 9781773855479 (PDF) | ISBN 9781773855462 (Open Access PDF) Subjects: LCSH: Public health—Alberta—History—20th century. | LCSH: Public health— Alberta—History—21st century.

Classification: LCC RA450.A4 M35 2024 | DDC 362.1097123—dc23

The University of Calgary Press acknowledges the support of the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Media Fund for our publications. We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada. We acknowledge the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts for our publishing program.







Canada Council Conseil des Arts for the Arts du Canada

Copyediting by Rhonda Kronyk

Cover image: "Corner of Round and Ford Streets, Lethbridge, Alberta." [ca. 1912], (CU1172838) by Unknown. Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary. Cover design, page design, and typesetting by Melina Cusano

Contents

Lis	t of Figures	VII
Lis	t of Tables	X
Lis	t of Abbreviations	XII
Acl	knowledgements	XIII
	Introduction: What Is Public Health, and Why Does It Matter? Lindsay McLaren, Donald W.M. Juzwishin and Frank W. Stahnisch	1
1	Who Is the Public in Public Health? Erna Kurbegović and Benjamin Sasges (contributed equally)	19
2	Priorities and Concerns of Provincial Governments: An Historical Public Health Landscape Lindsay McLaren, Rogelio Velez Mendoza, and Jack Lucas	33
3	Albertans' Health over Time: What We Know (and Why We Don't Know What We Don't Know) <i>Lindsay McLaren and Rogelio Velez Mendoza</i>	61
4	Public Health Governance: A Journey of Expansion and Tension Lindsay McLaren, Rogelio Velez Mendoza, and Donald W.M. Juzwishin	93
5	The Non-Profit Sector: Trials and Tribulations of the Alberta Public Health Association Rogelio Velez Mendoza and Lindsay McLaren	137
6	Public Health Education: Power and Politics in Alberta Universities Lindsay McLaren, Rogelio Velez Mendoza, and Frank W. Stabnisch	163

7	Stories from First Nation Communities in Alberta: Reconciliation Involves All of Us	191
	Lindsay McLaren and Rogelio Velez Mendoza	
8	Health Protection — Climate Change, Health, and Health Equity in Alberta	239
	Lindsay McLaren, Cristina Santamaria-Plaza, and Dennis Slater	
9	Mobilizing Preventive Policy	267
	Lindsay McLaren, Rogelio Velez Mendoza, and Donald W. M. Juzwishin	
10	Health Promotion and the Ottawa Charter in Alberta: A Focus on Maternal and Child Health	297
	Temitayo Famuyide, Benjamin Sasges, and Rogelio Velez Mendoza	
11	Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery: Lessons from Trains, Fires, Tornados and Floods Donald W.M. Juzwishin	321
12	Social Determinants of Health in the Alberta Government: Promising and Pernicious Historical Legacies <i>Lindsay McLaren</i>	339
13	Public Health Leadership: Courage, Conflict, and Evolving Understanding of Power	365
	Donald W.M. Juzwishin and Rogelio Velez Mendoza	
14	Conclusion Lindsay McLaren	391
APP	ENDIX A: Alberta-relevant papers published in the <i>Canadian Journal of Public Health</i> , 1919–2019.	407
APP	ENDIX B: Details and Sources for "Leading," "Selected," and "Certain" Causes of Death presented in Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 (Chapter 3).	430
Inde		467

List of Figures

Figure 0.1:	Annual provincial government per capita health expenditure in current dollars for 1) public health (black bars) and 2) hospitals (grey bars), Alberta, 1975 to 2019.	9
Figure 0.2:	Annual percentage of provincial government health expenditure on public health for Alberta, 1975 to 2019.	10
Figure 2.1:	Number of words in Alberta government throne speeches, by year, 1906–2017.	35
Figure 2.2:	Trends over time in the percent of all Alberta throne speech quasi-sentences coded as health (major topic code 3), 1906–2017 (lowess plot).	38
Figure 2.3:	Trends over time in the percent of health quasisentences from the Alberta throne speeches coded under three sub-codes: Establishment or construction of treatment-oriented facilities or infrastructure (solid line), Prevention, protection, promotion, core public health functions (dashed line), and Treatment, curative, or management-oriented health care (dotted line), 1906–2017 (lowess plot).	44
Figure 2.4:	Number of times "public health" is mentioned, in Alberta throne speech quasi-sentences coded as health (major topic code 3), by decade, 1906–2017.	45
Figure 2.5:	Number of times "prevent" (and iterations) is mentioned, in quasi-sentences coded as health (major topic code 3) in the Alberta throne speech dataset, by decade (black bars).	51
Figure 3.1:	Select leading causes of death, 1915 to 2015 (5-year intervals). Rate per 100,000 population.	65
Figure 3.2a:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1910 to 1920. Rate per 100,000 population.	67
Figure 3.2b:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1923 to 1929. Rate per 100,000 population.	69
Figure 3.2c:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1931 to 1939. Rate per 100,000 population.	69
Figure 3.2d:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1941 to 1949. Rate per 100,000 population	72

Figure 3.2e:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1951 to 1959. Rate per 100,000 population.	73
Figure 3.3:	Advertisement for polio insurance (1953).	74
Figure 3.2f:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1960 to 1968. Rate per 100,000 population.	75
Figure 3.2g:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1969 to 1977. Rate per 100,000 population.	75
Figure 3.2h:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 1985 to 1999. Rate per 100,000 population.	79
Figure 3.2i:	Leading causes of death (individual codes), 2000 to 2015. Rate per 100,000 population.	79
Figure 3.4:	Incidence of Gonococcal Infections (Gonorrhea), Alberta, 1919 to 2014.	80
Figure 4.1:	Provincial higher-level divisions and branches under the ministries and departments responsible for public health in Alberta, 1919–1993.	103
Figure 5.1:	Resolutions carried by the APHA, 1944–2017, organized according to their alignment with key public health domains (described in Table 5.1), expressed as a percent of total resolutions by decade.	143
Figure 5.2:	Size of APHA membership, 1945–2015. Sources: Minutes from APHA Annual General Meetings, and APHA annual reports.	151
Figure 6.1:	Summary points from the penultimate version (dated February 2006) of the Memorandum of Understanding for the pan-Alberta public health coalition.	182
Figure 7.1:	Map of First Nations in Alberta, which include 48 Nations in three Treaty areas.	225
Figure 7.2:	Map of Métis settlements and communities in Alberta.	226
Figure 9.1:	Medical Offier of Health, Brent Friesen, served as a key spokesperson on fluoridation for the Calgary Regional Health Authority during the 1990s.	278

Figure 10.1:	Infant mortality in Alberta, 1915 to 2015.	303
Figure 10.2:	An Alberta public health nurse holding a child welfare clinic.	304
Figure 13.1:	Malcolm Ross Bow.	366
Figure 13.2:	Ashbury Somerville.	367
Figure 13.3:	Laura Margaret Attrux.	368
Figure 13.4:	Helen Griffith Wylie Watson (nee McArthur).	369
Figure 13.5:	E.S.O. Smith.	370
Figure 13.6:	James Howell.	371
Figure 13.7:	John Waters.	372
Figure 13.8:	Shirley Stinson.	373
Figure 13.9:	Karen Mills.	374
Figure 13.10:	: Doug Wilson.	375
Figure 13.11:	Muriel Stanley Venne.	376
Figure 13.12	: Anne Fanning.	377
Figure 13.13:	: Wilton Littlechild.	378
Figure 13.14:	Bretta Maloff.	379
Figure 13.15:	: David Swann.	380
Figure 13.16:	: Jan Reimer.	381
Figure 13.17:	Louis Franscescutti.	382
Figure 13.18:	: James Talbot.	383
Figure 13.19:	: Karen Grimsrud.	384
Figure 13.20	: Petra Shultz.	385
Figure 13.21:	: Kim Raine.	386
Figure 13.22	: Les Hagen.	387

List of Tables

Table 2.1:	Major topic codes appearing in the Alberta throne speech dataset.		
Table 2.2:	Subtopic coding that we developed and applied to Alberta throne speech quasi-sentences coded as Health (Major Topic 3).	42	
Table 3.1:	Leading causes of death (number of deaths), all ages, Alberta, 1920 to 2010, 10-year intervals.	65	
Table 3.2:	Reported annual number of cases of, and deaths from, influenza in Alberta, 1916-1923.	68	
Table 3.3.	Points of opposition to compulsory seatbelt legislation (thematic groupings), along with illustrative examples, from the Alberta legislature, 1970s.	78	
Table 4.1:	Government of Alberta: Departments responsible for public health, along with minister, deputy minister, and provincial medical officer of health (or similar), 1905–present.	95	
Table 4.2:	Overview of select public health-related commissions, task forces and reports in Alberta, 1919–2019.	109	
Table 5.1:	Categories used to code APHA resolutions, based on core public health functions and adapted to cover the breadth of their resolutions.	155	
Table 6.1:	Summary of public health education programs offered at the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary, and Alberta (current as of February 2019).	179	
Table 6.2:	Timeline of some key events pertinent to the history of public health education in Alberta.	180	
Table 7.1:	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada – Calls to Action related to health.	192	
Table 7.2:	Some key recent historical events at the interface of Indigenous and colonial societies in Alberta and Canada (partial list).	195	
Table 7.3:	Summary of common / major activities of community health representatives in Alberta, approx. 1970s–early 1990s.	209	

Table 8.1:	Summary of some key international and national milestones in climate change.	241
Table 8.2:	Timeline of some milestones in Alberta environmental policy as it intersects with public health, 1905–1970s.	245
Table 8.3a:	List of bills referenced in our analysis of climate change, health, and equity in Alberta legislative debates, 1990s– 2019 (chronological).	249
Table 8.3b:	List of individuals referenced in our analysis of climate change, health, and equity in Alberta legislative debates, 1990s–2019 (alphabetical by last name).	249
Table 9.1:	Timeline of changes to Alberta provincial legislation concerning fluoridation.	275
Table 11.1:	Disastrous events in Alberta, 1910–2019, and consequences.	323
Table 11.2:	Tornados with loss of life in Alberta.	327
Table 12.1:	Summary of some milestones concerning intersectoral (health and social policy domains) activities and arrangements in the province of Alberta, 1905–2010s.	344
Table 12.2:	List of individuals referenced in our analysis of social determinants of health in Alberta legislative debates, 1990s–2019 (alphabetical by last name).	352
Table 14.1:	Critical perspectives in, of, and with public health practice.	403

Abbreviations

GDP Gross Domestic Product

MLA Minister of the Legislative Assembly

NDP New Democratic Party

PC Progressive Conservative Party
RCMP Royal Canadian Mounted Police

SC Social Credit Party

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge funding support from the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (File # R-1808-18F and File # R-1725-15F), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Funding Reference Numbers CPP-137907, TLB-162870, PJT-156258), and Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (Record # 201400593).

We extend sincere appreciation to the following individuals, who generously shared their time and expertise in making this book better (listed alphabetically by last name): Jacen Abrey, Ella Arcand, Farah Bandali, Chris G. Buse, Jason Cabaj, Kevin Cowan, Maureen Devolin, Sandra Dewar, Warren Elofson, Herb Emery, Rafael Figueiredo, Brent Friesen, Suzanne Galesloot, Cathy Gladwin, Jenny Godley, Les Hagen, Bonnie Healy, Ken Hoffer, Chris Hosgood, Marianne Howell, Lene W. Jorgensen, Don Junk, Nathalie Lachance, Bonnie Lashewicz, Eunice Louis, Jack Lucas, Kelsey Lucyk, Wanda Martin, Karen Mills, Morgan Mouton, Richard Musto, Brian Pickering, G. Barry Phillips, Gerry Predy, Kim Raine, Sandra M. Reilly, Ardene Robinson Vollman, Margaret Russell, Chris Sarin, Jim Talbot, Charles Weaselhead, Douglas R. Wilson, Ruth Wolfe, Sharon Yanicki, and Kue Young. We also thank the team at University of Calgary Press for their consistent support; our talented and thoughtful editor, Rhonda Kronyk; and the two anonymous reviewers for highly constructive comments.