



Some key issues

Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities

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- 1. Going upstream
temporally**
- 2. Climate anxiety, eco-grief,
opportunity and hope**



The first three years of life have a unique and formative impact on development, relationships and functioning throughout life.



The first three years are key

- 1 million connections are made in the brain **every second** in the first three years of life
- Atypical developmental trajectories can be detected in the first 6 months of life
- Age does not protect from trauma, infants can experience it
- Children do not outgrow their early mental health problems

**Chaya Kulkarni,
Infant Mental Health Program, HSC**



**“To build better
futures, we need to
build better brains”**

Alberta Wellness Initiative



- **Many adverse outcomes can be prevented when parents and other caregivers are provided with support that enables them to be optimally responsive to their infants and young children.**

IMHP Values and Beliefs

- **So are ALL parents and families made **WELCOME** in your community?**




**Going upstream
temporally**

So we need to go upstream in time

**Mobilizing the 2017 Call to Action for Leadership
on Promoting Child and Youth Mental Health**

Infant

And we need to invest upstream



**Climate anxiety, eco-
grief, opportunity
and hope**



**We are not apart
from nature**

Albert Marshall



Climate anxiety and eco-grief

- **Climate change and the other components of the Anthropocene represent an existential threat to our communities, societies and civilisations**
- **That evokes anxiety and grief**
 - **Ashlee Cunsolo**



This changes everything

Naomi Klein



**If everything is
changing, we can't
continue to change
nothing**



The antidote is hope

**“Hope is . . . the commitment
to positivity in the face of
adversity”**

Dutt and Brcic, 2014



Finding opportunity

- **The fact that everything has to change presents endless opportunities**
- **The younger generation will be the one that has to re-invent almost everything**



- **Yes, we need scientists, researchers, inventors**

But we also need

- **Entrepreneurs who will help create the new economy we need, providing new jobs while improving human and social development and ecosystem health**



And we need

- **social innovators, and the philosophers, artists, faith leaders and social activists who can express and communicate new values in appealing ways.**