|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Research Presentation** (Sentence case)  **Art-Based Approach for Better Integration of Health, Community and Environment : Children and Resource Development in New Brunswick, Canada** |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)**  As part of the Canadian-based Environment, Community and Health Observatory Network, we are investigating tools and processes that help strengthen the intersectoral capacity to understand and react to the health impacts of resource development on rural, remote and indigenous communities. We focus here on art-based methods as participatory and action-oriented approaches that help bring out new perspectives that are mindful of equity issues and help promote better health for all. We propose that these methods create a space where different voices can emerge in a respectful and trusting frame. Our objective is to better understand how art-based methods can be used to address complex issues of resource development and impacts on health, communities and environments. Our study site is in New Brunswick, Canada, a small rural province whose economy has been based on natural resource exploitation causing cumulative impacts on ecosystems, communities and health. We have been using drawings and photovoice as two art-based methods to understand how to better link children environmental health issues and resource development using a watershed lens. We will discuss the results of two different interventions. The first intervention reports on a workshop with professionals that participate in the New Brunswick Children Environmental Health Collaborative, where we investigated the link between children health and watershed with a drawing exercise. Participants drew a place they love that includes water and then discussed the health impacts on children. The second was a photovoice project with elementary school children in the Cocagne River watershed to help children better understand how they are linked to their watershed. Children took photograph during a walk in their watershed and then co-created rich picture maps to make visible the link between their health and the different uses of the watershed. We will discuss how the two interventions help make visible different ways of knowing. The use of drawing and photographs reveals the personal, emotional context of being part of a watershed that then help to frame the more intellectual discussions on links between health and resource development. The watershed lens helped to frame the discussion as place-based, and then allowed for connections between places. Thus, we show that art-based methods can be useful tools to address power relationships, vulnerabilities, equity issues and different world views.  **Keywords**  Photovoice; resource development; children’s health; intersectoral actions; equity |