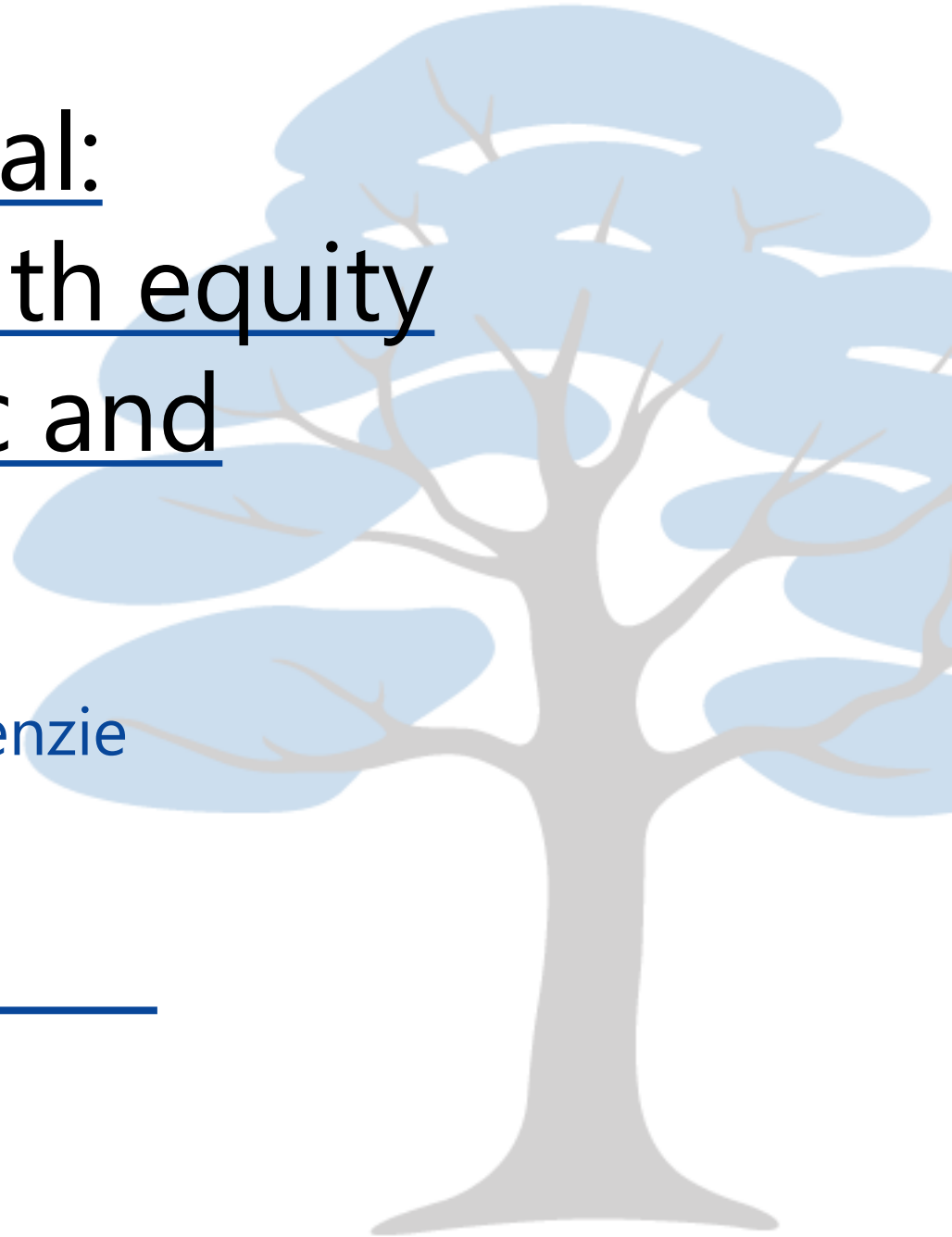


National to local:
improving health equity
for a pandemic and
beyond...

Professor Kwame McKenzie



Wellesley Institute

<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com>



≡ MENU

advancing urban health

Wellesley Institute works in research and policy to improve health and health equity in the GTA through action on the social determinants of health.

- Health equity through research, policy, convening
- Non-partisan
- Partnerships

- Equity improves pandemic response
- Alignment an opportunity for system change

Covid-19 pandemic response in Canada good but not equal



- National: mental health impacts 30% greater for racialized groups and 18-54yr women
- Ontario: hospitalization and deaths increased 2X in are with larger racialized populations
- Toronto: infection rate 5X for those in poverty 6-9X for racialized groups

Health equity gains in Canada's pandemic

- Improvements in access to income supports for marginalized groups
- \$1 billion from Federal Government for homelessness
- Free healthcare to uninsured during the pandemic
- PHAC annual report



Socio-demographic data collection, governance and use

March - April

- No race / ethnicity and sociodemographic data
- UK and USA report disparities and black populations and rise of Black Lives Matter
- Wellesley and partners convene stakeholder experts
- Research synthesis, media, government engagement

April - May

- Strategy paper developed for government
- Tools for data collection identified, model for data governance and use developed
- Synthesis papers, op-eds, radio, TV and government relations at three levels

Toronto

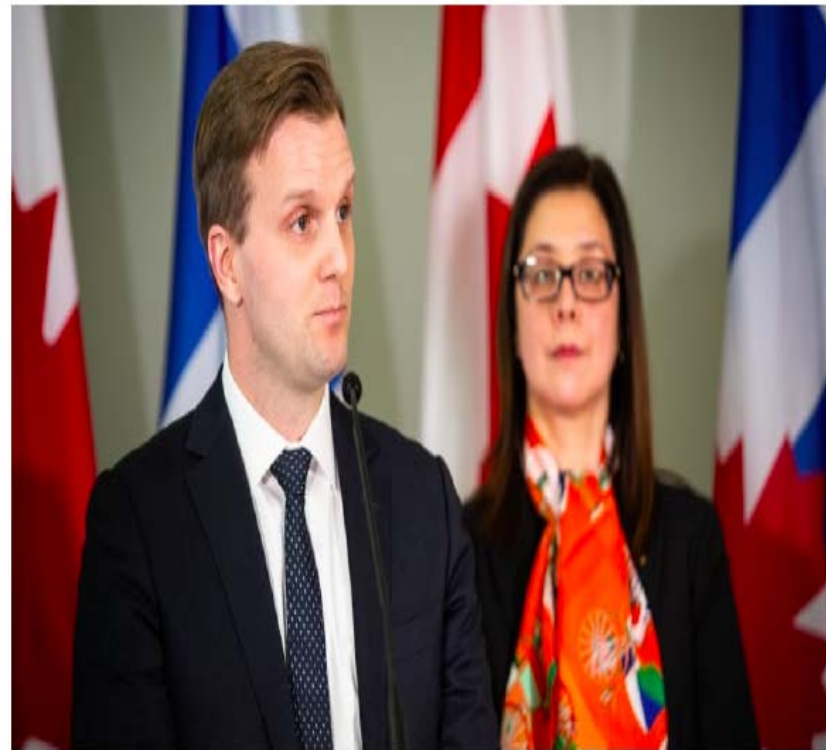
- May: Toronto starts covid-19 socio-demographic data collection
- July: Identifies disparities by income and race
- August: Consults communities
- September: brings equity action plan to City Council

Toronto pushing province to start collecting and sharing COVID-19 data around race and jobs



Toronto was counting 1,880 active COVID-19 cases as of Sunday

CBC News - Posted: Jun 02, 2020 10:46 AM ET | Last Updated: June 2



Ontario

Public
Health
Ontario

Santé
publique
Ontario

TRAINING & RESOURCES

Introduction to race, income, and language
data collection

30 June 2020

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

- June: Law changed to allow socio-demographic data collection across province
- October: Wellesley co-chairs provincial data analysis and planning group with Chief Medical Officer

Canada

- September:
National plan for socio-demographic data collection announced in Throne Speech of new Government of Canada



What we learned

- Our governments were more aligned, focused, data sensitive and able to listen in wave 1.
- Opportunity to make progress on health equity
- Working in partnership to find problems and offer solutions helped
- All levels of Government are considering hardwiring equity changes.

Wellesley Institute Team

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• [Brenda Roche](#) – Director

• [Michael Torres](#) – Director

Jesse Rosenberg – Director

Nina Acco-Weston – Ass Director

[Claude Awad](#) – Office Assistant

• [Nadiya Troyan](#) – Board Administrator

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• [David Morris](#)

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• [Gary Bloch](#)

• [Kofi Hope](#)

• [Researchers](#)

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• [Scott Leon](#) –

• [Shudipta Islam](#)

• [Stephanie Elliott](#) –

• [Vinusha Gunaseelan](#)

Thank you

