



Bold Ideas Colloquium Speaker Series

Friday, January 23, 2026, 12:00 – 1 PM via Zoom:

<https://umanitoba.zoom.us/j/64766938140?pwd=FEbOTM5h1GaaVEvbjE2EagWgIDuz5g.1>



Statistics are people with the tears wiped away: An occupational health lens on COVID-19 pandemic lessons

Dorothy Wigmore, Winnipeg-based occupational health specialist

Abstract: Canada must be better prepared for the next pandemic, learning from mistakes made in COVID-19 responses. Yet there have been no Canadian public inquiries, commissions and essential voices, especially those trained to protect workers' health which get insufficient attention. Concerned about these gaps, a volunteer-run multi-disciplinary coalition has focused on aerosol/airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and effective protections for workers and others. One result is an in-progress pandemic planning framework of prevention-focused themes and specific recommendations. It is not too late to learn from this pandemic, especially about cleaning the air, multi-disciplinary input, and an occupational health perspective: protecting workers protects us all.

Talk Learning Objectives:

- 1: Examine workers' experiences, and the role of occupational health, in this pandemic.
- 2: Review lessons learned in this pandemic from multiple perspectives.
- 3: Discuss specific recommendations for pandemic planning, based on multi-disciplinary lessons from COVID-19.

Biography: Dorothy Wigmore is a long-time Winnipeg-based occupational health specialist, trained to protect workers' health (occupational hygiene, ergonomics and work organization/stress). A former journalist, she has worked in the field with and for governments, NGOs, occupational health clinics and unions using a public health prevention lens. She has been an active member of the Canadian Aerosol Transmission Coalition and earned an MFA in Creative Non-fiction for her book project about workers' experiences in this pandemic.