

UPWIND DOWNWIND 2026

Addressing Environmental Racism & Inequity in Urban Air Pollution



TUESDAY MAY 26TH, 2026

David Braley Health Sciences Centre
100 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

PRESENTED BY CLEAN AIR HAMILTON

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Addressing Environmental Racism & Inequity in Urban Air Pollution

OVERVIEW

The 2026 conference explores key challenges and considerations involved in assessing and managing air pollution in urban environments. The program examines how historical land-use decisions, industrial development, and regulatory policies have disproportionately exposed marginalized groups to air pollution. The conference also serves as an important networking forum for the exchange of research findings and ideas to measure and improve air quality, advance public health, and address climate change. Participants will explore monitoring approaches and community-based practices to support more equitable and effective air quality management.

AGENDA

Time	Activity
8:00-9:00am	Breakfast & Networking
9:00am	Opening Remarks
9:15am	Mayoral Greetings <i>Her Worship Andrea Horwath, Mayor City of Hamilton</i>
9:30am	Engagement Opportunity with Clean Air Hamilton
9:45am	Student Contest Presentations
10:15am	Air Quality and Environmental Justice: Uniqueness in the Canadian Context <i>Speaker: Matthew Adams</i>
10:50-11:10am	BREAK

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AGENDA

Time	Activity
11:10am	Classifying the chemical and biological composition of particles in Waterloo Region <i>Speaker: Yara Khalaf</i>
11:45am	Evaluating Exposure Inequalities in Air Pollution Health Science: State of the Science and Current Activities at Health Canada <i>Speaker: Elysia Fuller-Thomson</i>
12:15pm - 1:30pm	Catered Lunch
1:30pm	Best Available Technology: A Driver for Justice and Innovation <i>Speakers: Scott Grant & Cathy Grant</i>
2:05pm	Practical At-Source Transportation Pollution Abatement: The Measured & Verified Impact of High-Efficiency Street Sweeping <i>Speaker: Daniel McCulloch</i>
2:40-3:00pm	BREAK
3:00pm	Land Use Compatibility and Air Quality <i>Speaker: George McKibbin</i>
3:30pm	Closing Remarks

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SPEAKERS



Matthew Adams, PhD

Dr. Matthew Adams is an Associate Professor of Geography, Geomatics & Environment at the University of Toronto Mississauga and Director of the Centre for Urban Environments. His research integrates geospatial modelling and environmental health to advance equitable, policy-relevant solutions to urban air pollution and community health disparities.



Yara Khalaf

Yara Khalaf is a PhD candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University whose work examines the chemical and biological composition of atmospheric particles. In parallel, she contributes to science education and environmental chemistry engagement through university teaching and community facing outreach initiatives.



Elysia Fuller-Thompson, MSc

Elysia Fuller-Thomson is a scientific evaluator in the Air Sectors Health Assessment Section of Health Canada where her role comprises research and analysis of the health impacts of common air pollutants. Her work includes a focus on assessing inequities in air pollution exposure.



Scott Grant, P.Eng

Air pollution control and combustion engineer, Scott worked at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks for over 30 years before retiring in 2019. His work included standards development, regulation implementation, and engineering design of combustion systems and pressure vessels. Scott is currently a principal of C&S Grant Environmental Consulting Inc.

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SPEAKERS



Cathy Grant, P.Eng

Cathy Grant is an Environmental Engineer, with a background in air pollution. During her 30+ years with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (now retired), she led a multi-disciplinary team to develop Ontario's local air quality regulation. The goal of this regulation is to protect the public from the risks of industrial air pollution. Cathy is currently a principal of C&S Grant Environmental Consulting Inc.



Daniel McCulloch

Daniel McCulloch is the Business Manager of The Equipment Specialist Inc. - Street Sweeping Equipment Specialists. Daniel's session examines high-efficiency street sweeping as a proven at-source transportation pollution mitigation strategy, emphasizing its measurable effectiveness in removing roadway-derived particulate matter. It synthesizes third-party performance research and broader transportation-pollution studies to demonstrate implications for public health protection, air quality improvement, and the reduction of pollutant loading to water systems.



George McKibbon, RPP, MCIP

George McKibbon is a land use and environmental planner with over 45 years of professional experience. He is a sessional lecturer in the W. Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology at McMaster University.

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