



Academic Contributions to COVID-19 Response and Recovery

June 2, 2020

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22nd Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium, June 1–4, 2020

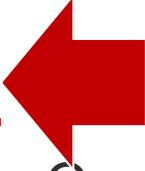
Agenda for Presentation

1. COVID-19 in Canada
2. COVID-19 Research in Canada
3. Two Research Examples
4. Conclusion – Emerging Research Issues



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COVID-19 in Canada

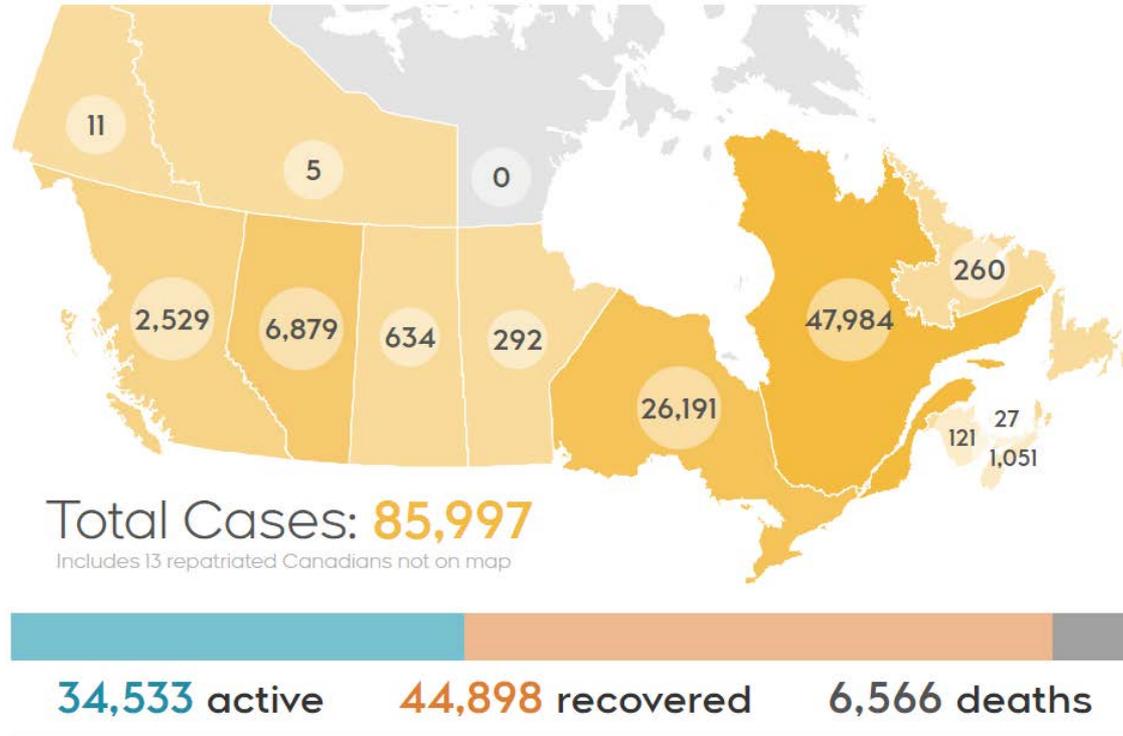
- Detailed fact-based briefings at 11:15 am everyday from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



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COVID-19 in Canada

- On May 26, approximately **86,000 cases**



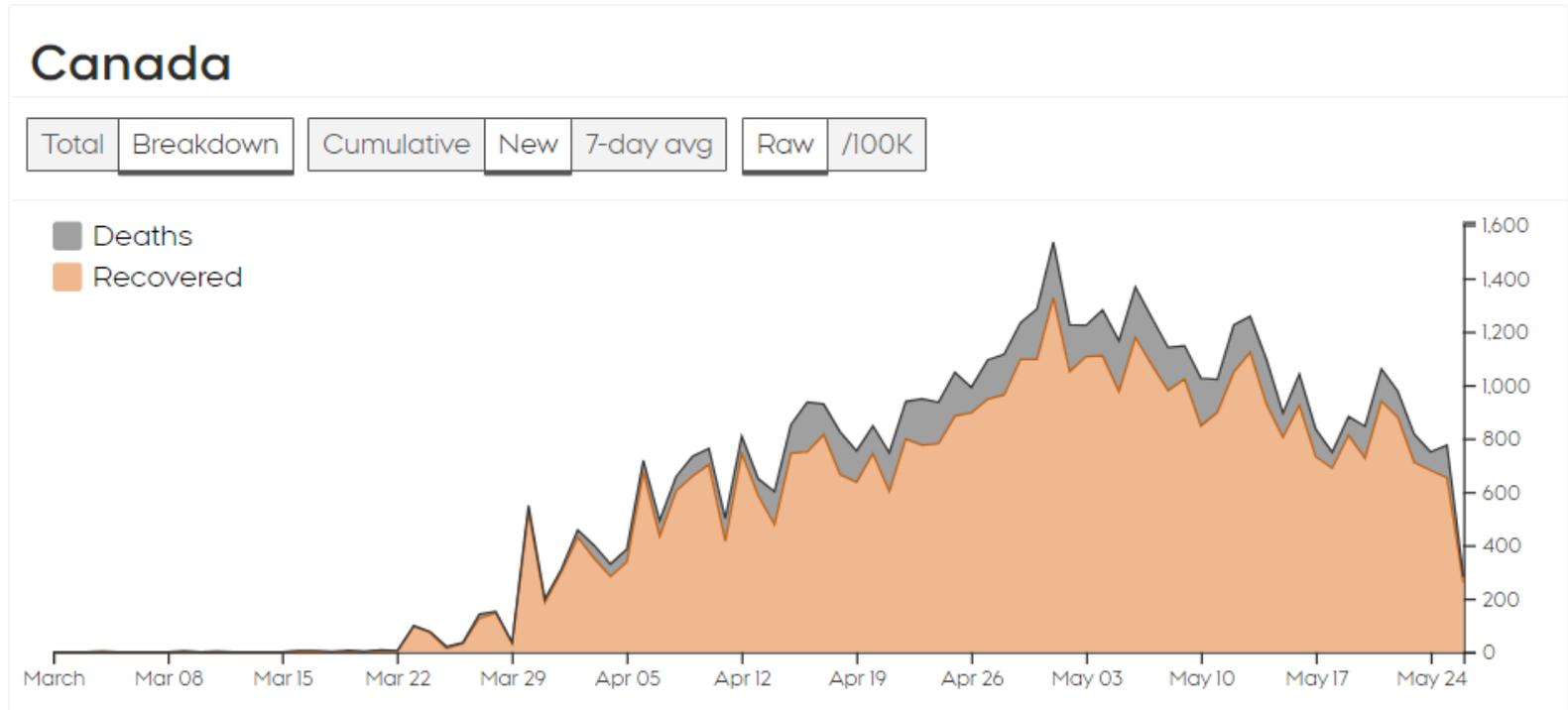
Source: **CTV News** <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102>



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COVID-19 in Canada

- From March to May 25, Canada has had **6,566 deaths**



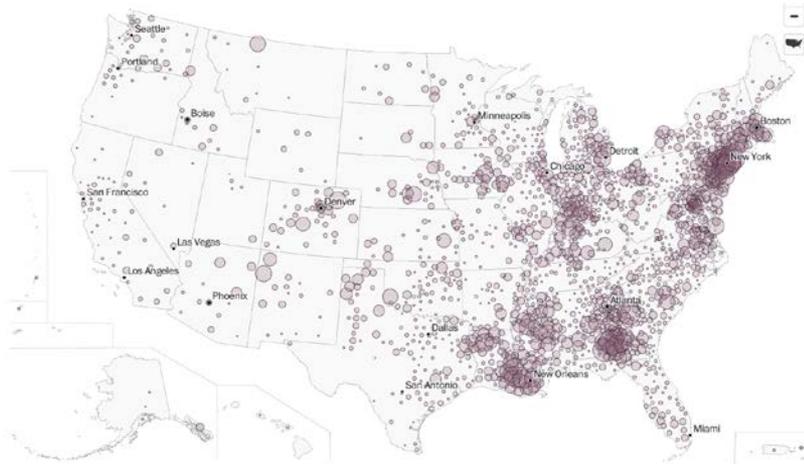
Source: **CTV News** <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102>



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COVID-19 International Comparative

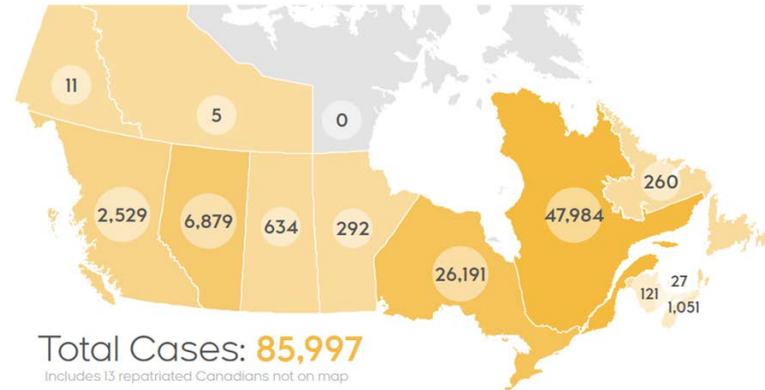
- On May 19, **Adjusted for 100,000 population**



USA

29.8 Deaths per 100k

507.7 Cases per 100k



Total Cases: **85,997**

Includes 13 repatriated Canadians not on map

34,533 active

44,898 recovered

6,566 deaths

Canada

18.0 Deaths per 100k

235.1 Cases per 100k

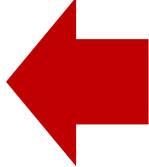
Source: **CTV News** <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102>

Washington Post <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/>



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COVID-19 Research in Canada (1)

- In Canada, calls for COVID-19 proposals went out in Mid-Feb.
- Canadian Federal Research Funding Agencies
- The “Tri-Agencies”
 - *Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)*
 - *Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)*
 - *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)*
- Also . . . University-based seed grants
- Also . . . Private sector competitions specific to industries
- Also . . . Variety of sectoral funding based on specific needs



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COVID-19 Research in Canada (2)

- Government of Canada takes guidance on research priorities based on World Health Organization goals and an analysis of national needs and emerging trends
- Two Areas of COVID-19 Research in Canada

1. Medical countermeasures

- *medical research and vaccine development*

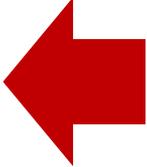
2. Social and policy countermeasures

- *Understanding social, behavioral, and policy aspects of COVID-19*



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Two Research Examples

- Highlight 2 COVID-19 projects that the presenter is involved with
- Examples of **Social and policy countermeasures research**
- Many colleagues in Emergency Management Higher Education in Canada are focusing on COVID-19 related research this summer



Professor Rozdilsky Comments on COVID-19 for the CTV News Channel on 6 March 2020



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COVID-19 Research Example 1

- A Canada Tri-Agency Funded Project
 - *Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)*
 - **Destigmatizing Chinese Communities in the face of COVID-19: Emergency Management Actions to Address Social Vulnerability in Toronto and Nairobi**
- ❖ *Investigators: Mamuji, Rozdilsky, Lee, Mwarumba, Tubula, Chu*
- ❖ *2 years \$499,121*



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COVID-19 Research Example 1

Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Funded Project

- **“Destigmatizing Chinese Communities in the face of COVID-19: Emergency: Management Actions to Address Social Vulnerability in Toronto and Nairobi**



- ❖ ***Understand the consequences of COVID-19 as experienced by Chinese communities in Toronto and Nairobi, including the social impacts of discrimination and Sinophobia on personal well-being and livelihoods.***

Source: **The Planet Toronto Attraction Guide** <https://theplanetd.com/best-things-to-do-in-toronto/>
Dr. Jack Rozdilsky



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COVID-19 Research Example 2

- A York University Seed Grant
 - *Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research*
 - **“Working to Close the Gaps in COVID-19 Response Generated Demands in a Canadian First Nations Context”**
- ❖ *Investigators: Rozdilsky, Jani*
- ❖ *1 year \$5,000*



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COVID-19 Research Examples

Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research Funded Project

- **“Working to Close the Gaps in COVID-19 Response Generated Demands in a Canadian First Nations Context”**



Border Controls on Reserves are not to be confused with blockades.

- ❖ **A ‘problem solving in action’ project to identify and address immediate term gaps related to COVID-19 response by a First Nation’s Council in Saskatchewan**

Source: **CBC News** <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/pikwakanagan-emergency-businesses-covid19-1.5525058>

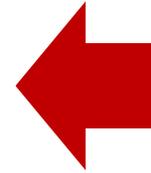
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COVID-19 Research Emerging Issues

- ❖ Most aspects of life have changed due to COVID-19
 - Including how academics engage in research
 - Numerous barriers to “doing” research
 - ***No-one is left unscathed by COVID-19 (from health to economic impacts)***
 - *How do researchers not contribute to community spread?*
 - *Universities remain physically closed*
 - *Movement is restricted under states of emergency*
 - *The ‘field’ cannot be accessed for field work*
 - *Alteration of methods (shift from in-person to remote interviews)*
 - *Complications in moving all research infrastructure to home*
 - *Etcetera*



COVID-19 Research Emerging Issues

- ❖ Operational, Ethical, and Situational Research Challenges in COVID-19
 - Due to COVID-19, new takes on old challenges of quick-response research are emerging
 - A COVID-19 *Working Group* for Public Health and Social Sciences Research is exploring the topic
 - *Work in progress, supported by the Social Science Extreme Events Research network (SSEER—is a National Science Foundation-supported network) & the Natural Hazards Center*



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Concluding Remarks

- COVID-19 research is needed and opportunities exists
- However, researchers are operating in a very challenging disaster environment
- Acknowledge the challenges, including ethical challenges, that are present during COVID-19 research
- ❖ **IMPORTANT - - In COVID-19 research, do no harm**



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