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About CDPI

The Climate Displacement Planning Initiative (CDPI) is a Canadian non-profit with a mission to help governments, particularly cities and local governments, address climate change displacement and help those who have lost their homes due to climate change impacts. It was formed by four graduate students at the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) in 2017 after their return from the HABITAT III conference in Quito, Ecuador. Today, CDPI works to develop research, recommendations, tool kits, and multilevel communities of practice to serve the most threatened and vulnerable people moving within and to Canada because of climate change.

Media Contacts

Anna Zhuo (Co-Founder)

Anna Zhuo is a planning and development consultant seeking to facilitate innovative and collaborative processes of planning, policy, and design. Her primary areas of professional consulting expertise include development planning, urban design, community planning, and social purpose real estate. Anna strives to advance climate adaptation and resilience planning as well as planning for inclusion and equity through her non-profit endeavours. As an immigrant herself, Anna deeply understands the value of fostering welcoming and inclusive spaces and its role in creating healthy and thriving communities for all. Anna is a Co-Founder and Board Member of the CDPI, seeking to advance both climate change research and settlement and integration planning in Canada.

George Benson (Co-Founder, Managing Director)

George P.R. Benson is a resilience thinker and practitioner working on economic development, urban planning, and climate change at all scales of action. He is the Co-Founder and Board member of CDPI. He is the North American lead on climate action within the World Economic Forum's young leaders network, the Global Shapers Community, has served in the leadership of both the Canadian and American urban planning associations, and has been both a Canadian and civil society delegate to UN and other, global forums. He also sits on the World Economic Forum's Global Commission on BiodiverCities. In 2018 he was awarded the City of Vancouver's Award of Excellence for his work on climate action and equity.

Nicole Bates-Eamer (Researcher)

Nicole Bates-Eamer is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Victoria, and a Graduate Student Fellow at the Centre for Global Studies. She is also a 2020-2021 Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Scholar for CDPI. In 2021, she completed Mapping the BC Context, a research project to understand climate displacement activities in BC today, and to identify future needs in this space. Her dissertation examines policies and narratives regarding the complex intersections of climate change and human mobilities.

Sarah Kamal (Researcher)

Sarah Kamal is a former UN worker now pursuing her Master's in Science and Technology Studies at UBC. She is a media and development specialist who conducted independent research in Afghanistan during and after the Taliban regime. Her areas of interest include forced migration, media reconstruction, gender in Afghanistan, and youth. She has worked primarily with Afghan forced migrant communities in Iran and Pakistan, and on Afghan women and children's asylum cases in the UK. Sarah Kamal was a UBC Sustainability Scholar with CDPI and in 2021 completed the report Out of harm's way: A scan of emerging global practices in climate change displacement for Canadian policymakers and practitioners for CDPI.

Contact Us

CDPI remains available for media requests and other information. To arrange a meeting with these other other speakers, please reach out to:

info@climate-displacement.org.