

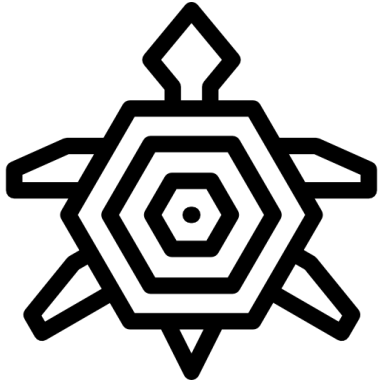


**Living & dying on
the streets:**

**Palliative care for
older adults
experiencing
homelessness**

Dr. Naheed Dosani

**Palliative care physician
& health justice
advocate**



Land Acknowledgment

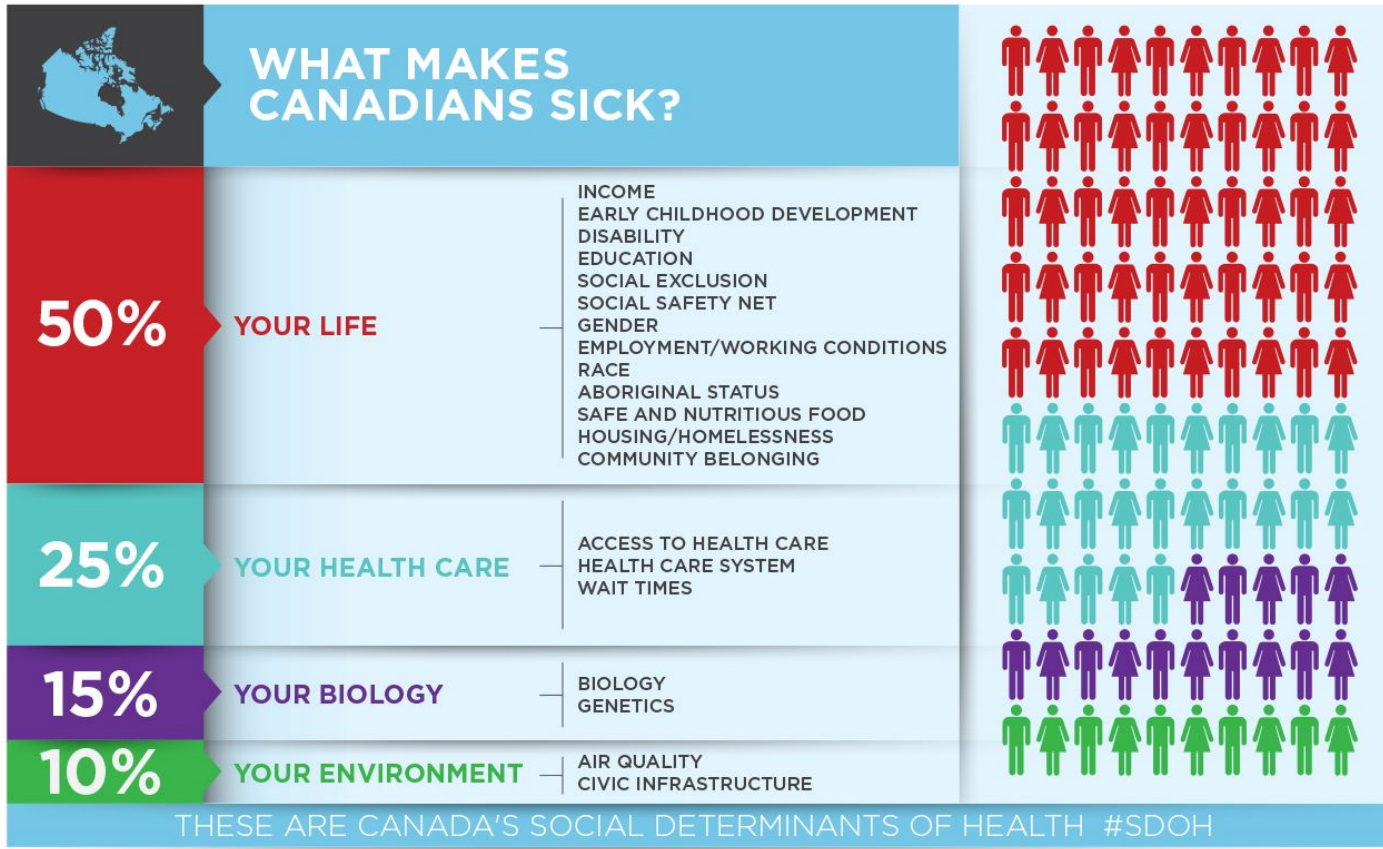


Goals

1. Reframe the concept of equity-oriented palliative care.
2. Describe the experiences of people who experience structural vulnerabilities (eg poverty, homelessness, mental illness) and how they experience significant barriers to accessing palliative care.
3. Provide practical solutions that derive palliative care equity by design in the context of health justice advocacy.



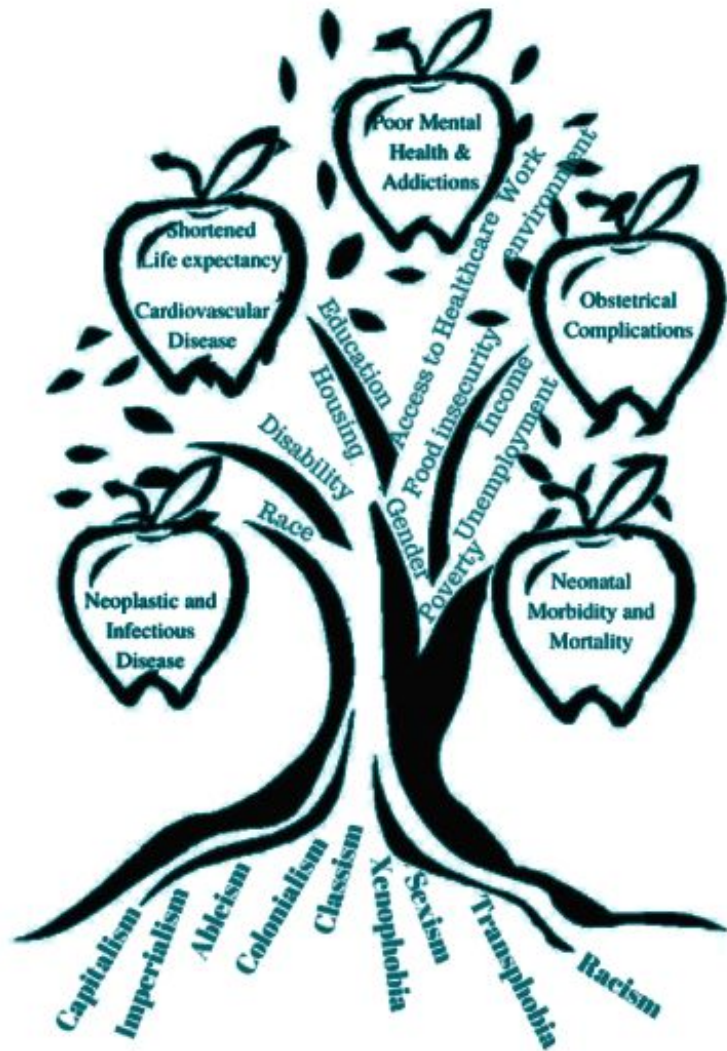
AMPLIFIED
HEALTH



A key determinant of palliative care access



YOUR POSTAL CODE!



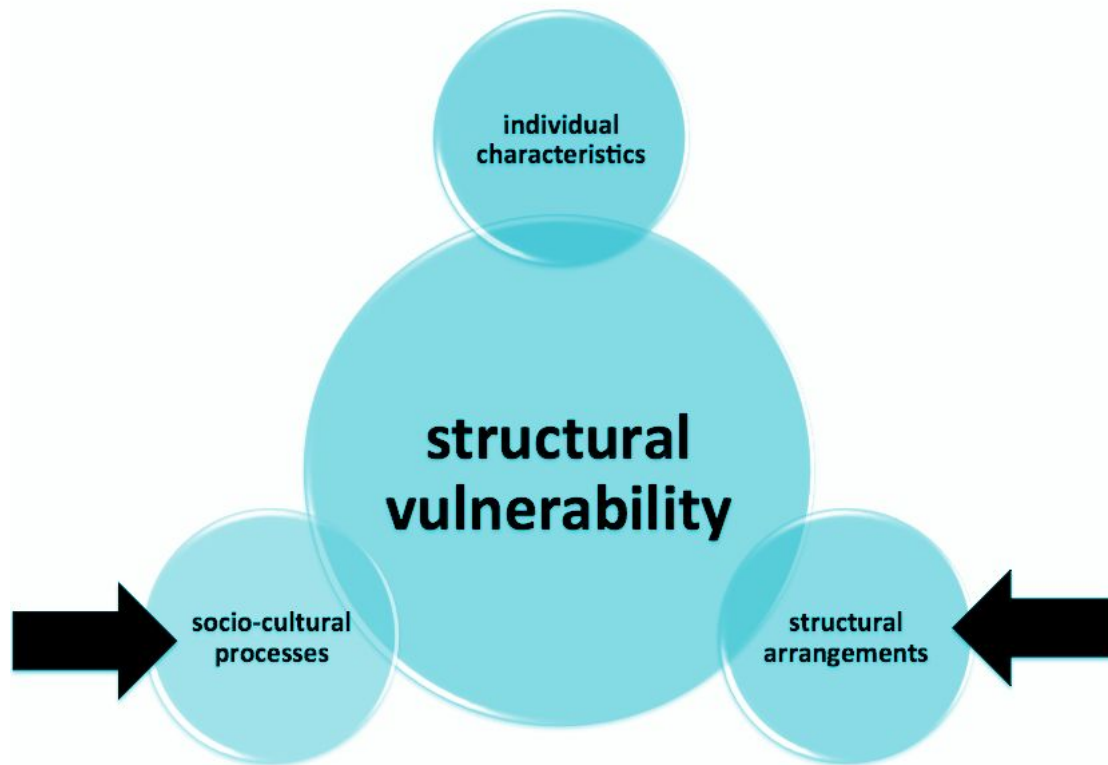
Social determinants of health

Digging at the roots, not just low hanging fruit:

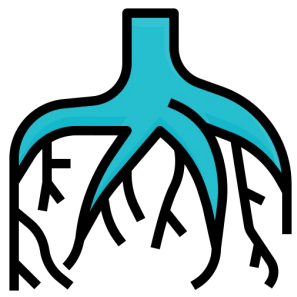
The reproduction of the social determinants of health when the structural determinants' are left untouched

~Dr Nanky Rai
(@NankyRai)

AMPLIFIED
HEALTH



McNeil, 2015



Examples of structural vulnerabilities

- Homeless & vulnerably housed
- Poverty
- Social isolation
- Substance use
- Trauma
- Poverty
- Racialized communities
- Mental illness
- New Canadians, immigrants, refugees
- Non-status populations

Homelessness is a continuum



Living outside or in places not fit for human habitation

Staying in temporary or emergency accommodations (emergency shelters)

Living at risk of homelessness due to lack of financial security or other factors (intimate partner violence, separation, divorce)

Living in accommodations without security of tenure (couch-surfing, rooming houses)



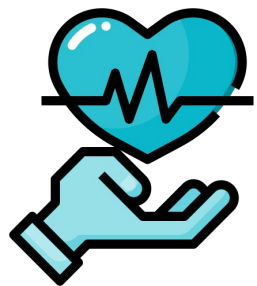
Did you know?



1

person in a shelter





The health of people who are homeless

As compared to the general population homeless people:

- Are 2x more likely to have a disability compared to general population
- 3x-6x higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, and HIV/AIDS among the homeless population compared to the general population.

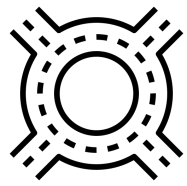


The health of people who are homeless

- Highest all-cause mortality rate in Canada
 - Life expectancies:
34 - 47 years old
 - Mortality rates: 2.3x - 4x
- Location at EOL



St Michael's Hospital, 2014 Podymow et al, 2006 Cagle, 2009 Plunkett, 2016



Intersectionality

- Racism
- Ableism
- Ageism
- Sexism
- Stigma (PWUD)
- Criminalization of poverty
- Policing
- Labour rights
- New age advocacy

50%



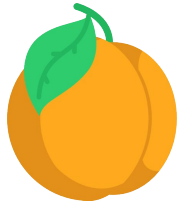
Best Practices: Homeless Health

- Outreach
- Intensive case management
- Interdisciplinary
- Care across settings
- Harm reduction
- Integration with housing sector

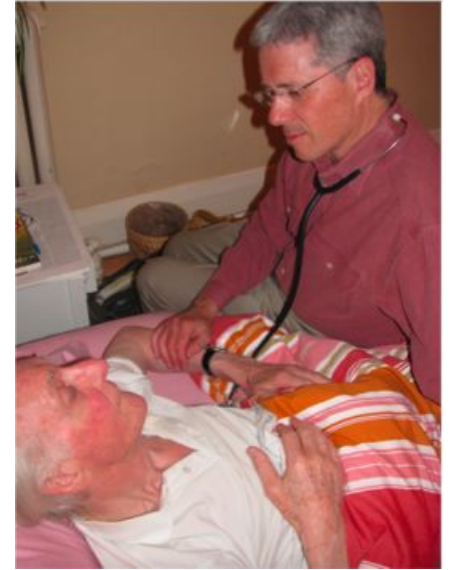


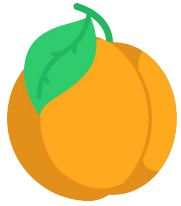
Palliative care is holistic care





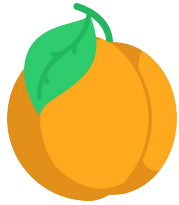
The PEACH model of care





The PEACH team



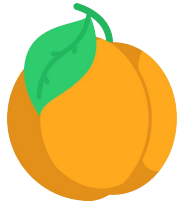


About PEACH

- Reconnection to family or friends
- Prevention of acute hospitalizations/ED use
- EOL in preferred place
- Housing status

Table 1: Housing status of PEACH clients at time of referral and time of death

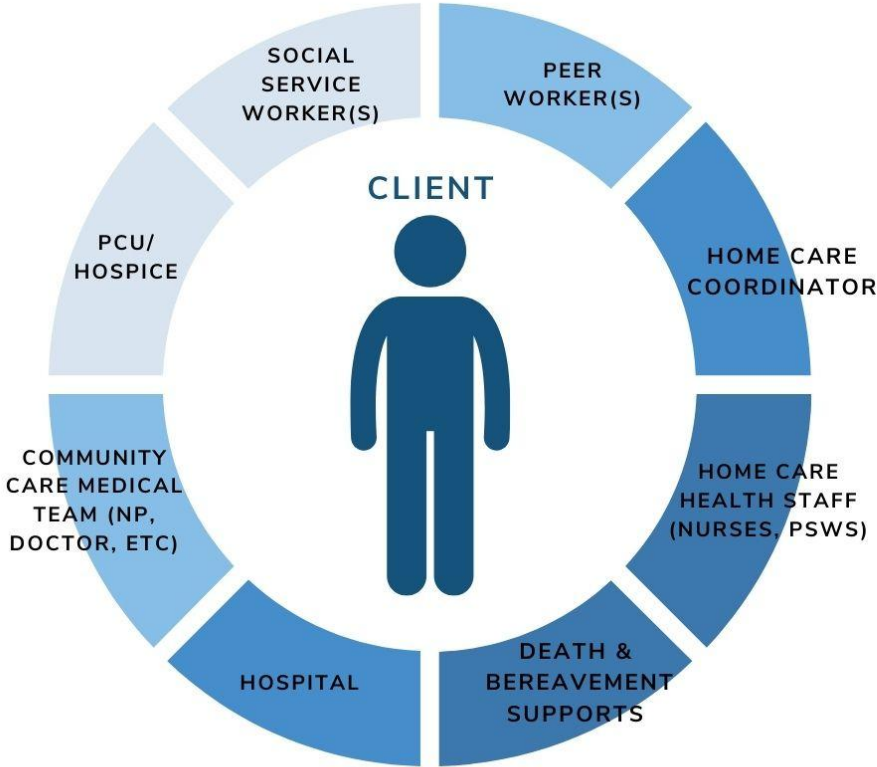
	Time of referral (% of clients)	Time of death (% of clients)
Shelter	24 (38.1%)	5 (7.9%)
Affordable Rental	17 (27.0%)	0
Transitional Housing	12 (19.0%)	8 (12.7%)
Social Housing	6 (9.5%)	1 (1.6%)
Sleeping rough	2 (3.2%)	0
Market Rental	1 (1.6%)	0
Unknown	1 (1.6%)	6 (9.5%)
PCU/Hospice	0	28 (44.4%)
Acute Care Hospital	0	15 (23.8%)



Core Values

1. Integrating health & social services to support client
2. Trauma informed approach to palliative care

ANATOMY OF A CARE TEAM



The trauma informed approach

Assumes that every patient may have experienced some form of trauma.

We don't necessarily need to question about their experiences, rather just assume a possible history of trauma.



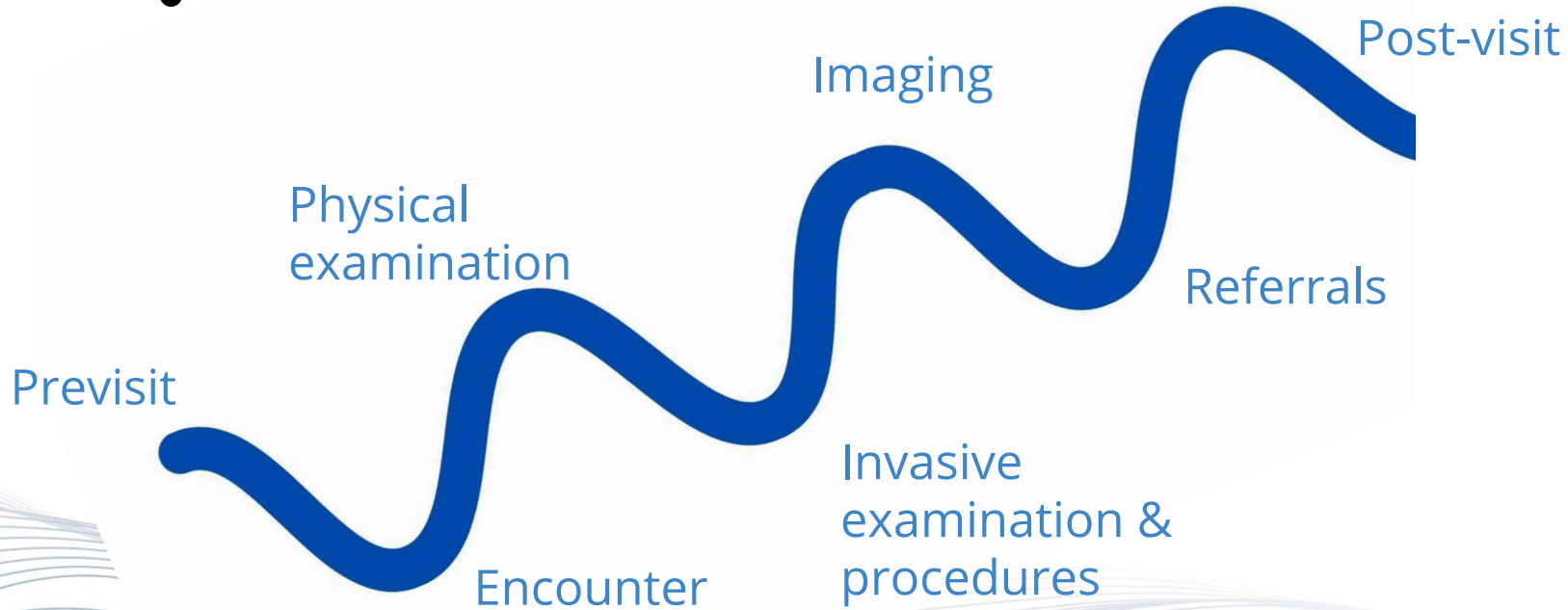
Principles of Trauma Informed Care

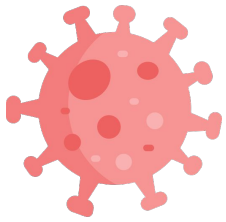


Fallon & Harris, 2009



A trauma-informed action roadmap





Homeless in a COVID19 World

The experience of homelessness itself places people without homes at greater risk of symptomatic infection and mortality from COVID-19.

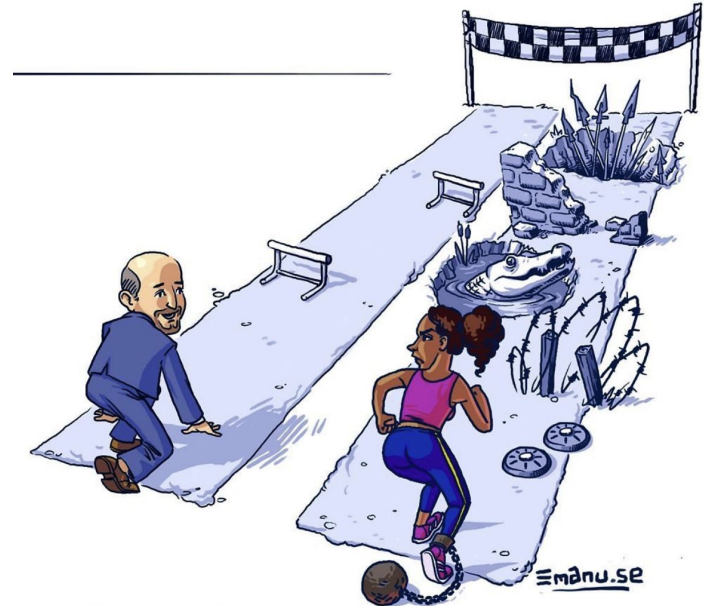
- Further isolation & marginalization
- Encampments
- The criminalization of poverty
- Addressing grief
- Vaccine confidence & equity
- Increased death

Due to lack of data collection, the true impact of COVID-19 on homeless mortality is not clear.

People who are structurally vulnerable face disproportionate health challenges.

These inequities are exacerbated during the pandemic.

What's our role now and post-pandemic?



“What’s the matter?
It’s the same distance!”

10 promising practices to improve palliative care delivery for the homeless & vulnerably housed



1. Build community by integrating social & health services



naheedd
Toronto, Ontario

naheedd In 2014, the PEACH (Palliative Education And Care for the Homeless) program started with our nurse and I driving around the city in my Honda Civic providing palliative care to people experiencing homelessness wherever they were at.

It's PEACH's sixth anniversary and in my wildest dreams, I never could have imagined the impact this little program would have for so many. Today, I'm excited to share the news that we've grown to support more seriously ill people experiencing homelessness.

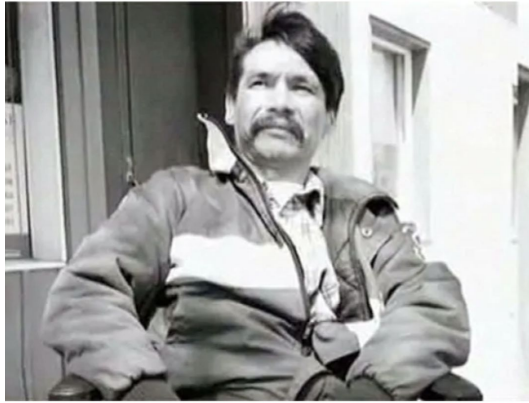
Welcome **Leann Trevors**
PEACH has always had a strong focus on equity because of its vital connection to health & wellness.

Liked by npads and 291 others
JULY 10, 2020

Add a comment... Post



2. Anti-racism & anti-oppression must be driving principles



3. Provide palliative care where people are at



4. Adopt harm reduction approaches to care



5. Practice Trauma-Informed Care



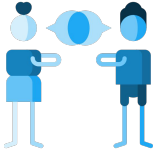
6. Caring together, grieving together



7. Prioritize Advance Care Planning



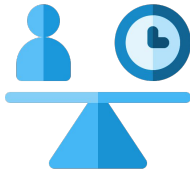
Four steps to advance care planning for people experiencing homelessness



Illness
understanding



Relationships



Quality of Life



Setting/treatment

8. Foster peer supports: Include street and/or 'chosen' family in care

Challenges increase for Toronto palliative care patients experiencing homelessness, doctors say



9. This work IS advocacy



MENU

CBCradio

Tapestry
with Mary Hynes

Wednesday April 01, 2015

"What's a life worth?"

f t r g+ + e



Dr Naheed Dosani and his patient Archie (Frank Faulk - CBC)

 Listen 15:39

 Pinned Tweet

 **Naheed Dosani**  @NaheedD · May 31, 2020

RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
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10. Derive equity by design

Equality



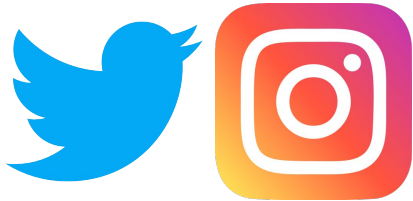
Equity



Justice



Let's keep the conversation going.



@naheedd



Naheed Dosani



info@amplifiedhealth.ca