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ROLES: C-Change Co Applicant
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Coordinator,
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Climate Change



DISCIPLINES: Sociology; resource management; regional social and economic development; climate change; adaptive capacity; governance; science and technology; social capital; risk and trust; community; health and well-being

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Ralph Matthews is Professor of Sociology at The University of British Columbia and Professor Emeritus of Sociology, McMaster University. He has published widely, including five books, *Communities in Decline* (1968); *There's No Better Place than Here* (1976); *The Creation of Regional Dependency* (1983); *Controlling Common Property* (1993); and *The Aquaculture Controversy in Canada: Activism, Policy and Contested Science* (2010), and over 75 referred journal papers and book chapters. Matthews' research generally focuses on the intersection of economic and social relations and the role of public policy. He has directed several large research projects including *The Resilient Communities Project* (www.resilientcommunitiesproject.ca) that focused on the role of social capital in community economic and social development, and *The Coastal Communities Project* (www.coastalcommunitiesproject.ca) that works with First Nation and settler communities in coastal British Columbia around issues of governance; environment and resource management; education; and health. His previous climate change research has included a study of how First Nation and settler communities in three areas of coastal British Columbia understand and respond to environmental changes (www.coastalclimatechange.ca), and his on-going study in Whitehorse, Yukon of the adaptive capacity of 'Arctic Gateway Cities' to deal with issues of climate change and sustainability (www.whitehorseclimatechange.ca). In addition, he is directing the social research component of a multidisciplinary study of the impact of climate change on forest communities in N.W. British Columbia. Ralph also is a co-investigator on a recently funded Commonwealth of Australia, Cooperative Research Centre focusing on Remote Economic Participation.

BIOGRAPHY:

Throughout his professional career Matthews has been active in university, research, and professional administration. He has served as Associate Dean, Graduate Studies at McMaster University; Chair, Instructional Support and Information Technology, Faculty of Arts, UBC; and, is currently Social Science and Humanities Research Coordinator, Office of the VP Research and International at UBC. He was the Social and Economic Research Theme Leader of AquaNet, NCE, and was Director of the British Columbia Canadian Climate Adaptation and Impacts Research Networks (C-CIARN –BC). Professionally, he has served as President (elected) of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association, and Editor, of the Canadian Review of Sociology. He has recently been appointed to the American Sociology Association's Task Force on Sociology and Climate Change, and also recently elected President of the International Sociological Association's, Research Committee 23, Science and Technology. He is married to Anne Martin-Matthews, Ph.D. and they have two adult children.