



National Collaborating Centres
for Public Health

Centres de collaboration nationale
en santé publique

**Strong evidence,
stronger public health**

Goals

- » Promote and improve the use of scientific research and other knowledge to strengthen public health practices and policies in Canada.
- » Translate existing knowledge to produce and exchange relevant, accessible and evidence-informed products with researchers, practitioners and policy makers.
- » Identify knowledge gaps to highlight areas where research is needed.
- » Foster and promote local, regional, national and international networks to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between the public health community, researchers and other actors.
- » Provide our audience with publications and tools available in English and French.

National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

Please contact us at: info@nccph.ca
Or visit: www.nccph.ca



NATIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRE
FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH
CENTRE DE COLLABORATION NATIONALE
DE LA SANTÉ AUTOCHTONE

Prince George, BC | www.nccah.ca



National Collaborating Centre
for Infectious Diseases
Centre de collaboration nationale
des maladies infectieuses

Winnipeg, MB | www.nccid.ca



National Collaborating Centre
for Determinants of Health
Centre de collaboration nationale
des déterminants de la santé

Antigonish, NS | www.nccdh.ca



National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health
Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale

Vancouver, BC | www.nceh.ca



National Collaborating Centre
for Methods and Tools
Centre de collaboration nationale
des méthodes et outils

Hamilton, ON | www.nccmt.ca



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Montréal-Québec, QC | www.ncchpp.ca

The National Collaborating Centres for Public Health are funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.
The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

www.nccph.ca



Mandate

National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAH) supports a renewed public health system in Canada that is inclusive and respectful of diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Using a holistic, co-ordinated and strengths-based approach to health, the NCCAH fosters links between evidence, knowledge, practice and policy while advancing self-determination and Indigenous knowledge in support of optimal health and well-being.

Goals

- » Promote the use of reliable, quality evidence in the efforts of service delivery agencies, research centres, policy makers, and communities to achieve meaningful impact on the public health system in support of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.
- » Increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal public health by developing culturally relevant materials, projects and activities.
- » Establish and strengthen partnerships to facilitate greater participation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in public health initiatives that affect their health and well-being.

Work to Date

- » Partnered with UNICEF Canada in the Canadian Supplement to the State of the World's Children 2009: *Aboriginal Children's Health: Leaving no child behind*. The report drew national and international attention to the health of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Canada and offered solutions for change.
- » Played a leadership role facilitating Indigenous perspectives to the World Health Organization's 2008 global study on the social determinants of health and hosted two national forums with Aboriginal organizations exploring a multi-sectoral approach to improving Aboriginal public health outcomes. NCCAH DVD documentaries on this vital approach to health have been released in Canada and internationally.
- » Hosted two national gatherings supporting Aboriginal parents in the care and health of children, helping to address disrupted parenting skills linked to issues such as the residential school era. A 2011 showcase focused on the pressing need to support Indigenous fathers in communities, programs, research and policies in Canada, building on evidence that responsible father involvement is a protective factor in healthy child development.
- » Released an updated report in 2011 mapping the research landscape in Aboriginal health in Canada. *Landscapes of First Nations, Inuit and Métis health: An updated environmental scan* provides a comprehensive picture of existing knowledge and current directions in Aboriginal peoples' health in Canada, and indicates gaps in research and data that require attention.

Current Activities 2011-2012

- » Child and Youth Health – A partnership with the Canadian Paediatric Society will introduce curriculum to sixteen universities across Canada in 2011, effectively educating the next generation of paediatric physicians in best practices in First Nations, Métis and Inuit child and youth health. The cultural competency module and related DVD were delivered at two training-the-trainer sessions in May 2011. In addition, the NCCAH's work in Aboriginal parenting continues to focus on research, best practices, and enablers of success related to Aboriginal parenting programs across Canada.
- » Indigenous Social Determinants of Health – The NCCAH is strengthening awareness of the complex links between Aboriginal health and issues such as language, health services access and traditional diets. An edited book, an academic publication, and an international panel deepening understanding of the key role of Indigenous knowledge in health are leading projects furthering the agenda on this critical approach to Aboriginal health and well-being.
- » Emerging Public Health Priorities – The Centre is involved in creative approaches to knowledge sharing for improved understanding of complex Aboriginal health issues. It is currently exploring links between ecohealth and Aboriginal health, and supporting an upcoming journal dedicated to Indigenous health in relation to place. A national 2011 Aboriginal Vision Health awareness campaign on diabetes-related blindness is also underway in a partnership with the Vision Institute of Canada and the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

Host

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Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH), one of the six National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (NCCPH), is developing a distinctive niche to assist public health organizations and practitioners learn about and use evidence to better address determinants of health to advance health equity.

Goals

- » Synthesize, translate and exchange evidence-based knowledge to support public health practitioners and policy-makers.
- » Identify gaps in the use of evidence in public health practice and policy making.
- » Develop and strengthen partnerships and intersectoral collaborations to address the determinants of health in order to address health equity.
- » Strengthen capacity through networks of public health practitioners, policy-makers and researchers in determinants of health.

Work to Date

- » Conducted a comprehensive national environmental scan on the determinants of health for public health practice, programs and policy. The environmental scan, *Integrating Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity into Canadian Public Health Practice: Environmental Scan 2010*, is available in English and French at <http://www.nccdh.ca/> and <http://www.ccnds.ca/>.
- » Recruited and hired new Scientific Director: Connie Clement.
- » Initiated identification of organizations and individuals who champion public health interventions regarding social determinants of health and health equity. The electronic resource will be translated in 2011-12 and released in both languages.

Current Activities 2011-2012

- » Produce practice-oriented 'implication' introductions to key reports and newly published research to help practitioners understand application possibilities of new knowledge.
- » Build mechanisms to increase knowledge exchange between researchers and practitioners, among practitioners. We will develop a new e-enabled learning community, update our website to function more as a portal and use webinars and social media more.
- » Adapt a Pan American Health Organization online course about social determinants of health for Canada.
- » Undertake rapid reviews about evidence-informed strategies identified in 2010 that can be effectively implemented by regional/local health departments.
- » Deliver presentations and workshops. This includes co-delivering a full-day session at CPHA about the strategies named immediately above and about recent research on how to communicate with diverse populations about determinants of health.
- » Undertake an applied learning project to analyse best-available practices to report population health in ways that better illuminate health inequities and suggest possible policy directions.
- » Scan literature and expert opinion to better understand leadership enablers and barriers and present intervention considerations to support public health leaders to escalate health equity gains.

Host

St. Francis Xavier University

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Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH) focuses on the health risks associated with the physical environment and identifies evidence-based interventions to reduce those risks. Working with environmental health practitioners, policy makers and researchers, the NCCEH identifies priority issues, collects information and produces relevant documents and directories that can be used in practice and policy.

Goals

- » Synthesize, translate and exchange knowledge for practitioners and policy makers in Canada.
- » Identify key gaps in research and practice knowledge.
- » Build capacity through networks of practitioners, policy makers and researchers in environmental health in Canada and internationally.

Work to Date

- » Conducted two environmental scans with extensive input from practitioners, policy makers and researchers in Canada to identify priority needs.
- » Established a national advisory board to advise on the work of the NCCEH.
- » Enhanced our bilingual website to provide a vehicle for sharing information and making connections, e.g., directories of environmental health legislation, practicum placements, continuing education, journal article summaries, and additional resources.
- » Produced evidence reviews in collaboration with practitioners and policy makers on topics such as the environmental burden of disease in Canada, mould assessment and remediation, tanning and skin cancer, church/community suppers and food-borne illness, and wind turbines and health.
- » Developed workshops on, e.g., air quality assessment, built environment, personal service establishments, risk communication, safe drinking water and evidence-informed decision making, in partnership with organizations including the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) and NCCMT.
- » Conducted a project to enumerate past cases of water-borne illnesses in Canada and identify drinking water system risk factors associated with them, guided by a steering committee of practitioners, policy makers and researchers.
- » Conducted a pilot project to review evidence-based articles on heat protection advice for the public through online collaboration.
- » Conducted a project to collect information on environmental health programs and services in Canada, current projects that health agencies are conducting, and innovative practices occurring within agencies, with CIPHI.
- » Developed a framework to evaluate the work of the NCCEH and subsequently conducted two evaluations.

Current Activities 2011-2012

- » Producing additional documents on topics such as traffic air pollution, Farmers' markets, cultural foods, residential pesticide exposure, and efficacy of inspections for reducing food-borne illness.
- » Offering secondments and practicums.
- » Offering workshops and presentations on, e.g., built environment, risk communication, and evidence-informed decision making in environmental health.
- » Developing a workshop on public health ethics and cultural respect, with CIPHI and NCCHPP.
- » As part of the NCCs' project on small drinking water systems, NCCEH is collecting information on provincial/territorial roles and responsibilities and on treatment technologies.
- » Conducting a project on healthy built environments and, e.g., developing an inventory of tools and practices to support them, with the Urban Public Health Network.
- » Conducting a project on personal service establishments, including a review of infection risk and an overview of tools used in piercing.
- » Conducting a project on outdoor air and, e.g., producing a guide on air quality assessment tools.
- » Collecting case studies on risk communication.
- » Expanding and updating our website, e.g., the directories of programs and services, health agency projects, innovative practices, practice questions and ethical dilemmas.
- » Participating in national and regional working groups on topics such as personal service establishments, air quality (indoor; outdoor), built environment, drinking water, and First Nations environmental health.
- » Evaluating NCCEH activities and products.

Host

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control

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Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP) seeks to increase the expertise of public health actors across Canada in healthy public policy through the development, sharing and use of knowledge. We provide public health actors and partners with relevant research-based information and tools about the potential health impact of policies and about public policy processes themselves to increase their ability to contribute to these processes and improve the public's health across Canada.

Goals

- » Synthesize knowledge to support healthy public policy adoption at all levels.
- » Encourage the development of methods for knowledge synthesis, translation, exchange and use appropriate to healthy public policy.
- » Disseminate knowledge about healthy public policy and about policy-making processes themselves to make it useful and accessible to public health actors and their partners across Canada.
- » Identify critical knowledge gaps and stimulate work in priority areas relevant to healthy public policy.
- » Collaborate with interested actors, policy makers and researchers to develop quality knowledge products and tools.

Work to Date

- » Produced documents, training resources and tools in health impact assessment (HIA), recognizing its status as a key tool for promoting healthy public policy in Canada.
- » Developed the Method for Synthesizing Knowledge about Public Policies, which considers the best available effectiveness evidence, equity, and implementation issues of concern to decision makers; published a practical application of the method with a knowledge synthesis on nutrition-labelling policies.
- » Produced *The Tobacco Story in Canada: 1900 until today*, an interactive timeline that tracks how different factors influenced public policies on tobacco during the 20th Century.
- » Produced the Structural Profile of Public Health in Canada, an online tool for tracking how public health functions are organized in each province and territory.
- » Redesigned our website www.ncchpp.ca with more resources, links, project updates and interactive features. The site now features over 100 publications and presentations, each available in English and French.

Current Activities 2011-2012

- » In addition to publishing a range of work in our established project areas and developing new areas relevant to healthy public policies, the Centre is offering a series of workshops and presentations. These may be developed in a variety of formats from 1-3 hours to a day or more and through different channels including webinars. Workshops and presentations for 2011-2012 were developed in the following areas:
 - Method for Synthesizing Knowledge about Public Policies
 - Health Impact Assessment: Practical Application at the Local and Regional Levels
 - Public Policy: An Introduction for Public Health
 - Deliberative Processes: For whom, Why and How?
 - Public Health Ethics: Key Reference Points and Applications
 - Understanding Media Communications: The Encoding/Decoding Approach
 - Wicked Problems and Deliberation: A Method for Advancing Intersectoral Dialogue
 - Transportation Policies and Health Inequalities: Avenues for Mapping Policy Interventions
 - Traffic Calming Strategies: Understanding their Effects
- » Please contact us to find out more about these presentations, and to know how and where they could be made available for you.

Host

Institut national de santé publique du Québec

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Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) serves as a bridge between research and knowledge on one hand, and the practical needs of public health practitioners and policy makers in infectious diseases on the other.

Goals

- » Protect the health of Canadians by facilitating the use of evidence and emerging research on infectious diseases to inform public health programs and policies.
- » Encourage the integration of evidence on infectious diseases into public health programs, policies and practices.
- » Encourage collaborative responses by relevant stakeholders, including public health policy makers, practitioners and researchers, to public health issues and needs in the area of infectious diseases.

Work to Date

- » The *Purple Paper* was launched as a rapid knowledge translation tool during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic (pH1N1). It continues as a monthly publication reporting on infectious disease news and technologies.
- » Two evidence reviews on HIV prevention were published, adding to the 11 already produced.
- » A new series of evidence reviews is underway to critically assess and consolidate research findings relevant to public health, building on previous work in pH1N1. The series of 13 articles covers topics in human and animal public health, and will be completed by fall 2011.
- » The completed version of the *Outreach Planning Guide* was discussed at six regional workshops held across Canada in 2010/11. Edits to the French version of the Guide are being finalized and it will be developed into a web-based learning tool.
- » A consultation on "Strategies for Preventing and Mitigating Influenza in Canada through the One Health Approach" took place in April 2011. Other zoonoses topics have been addressed in Purple Papers.
- » Executive summaries of three commissioned Comprehensive Reviews of Population-Level Interventions to Reduce Community-Acquired Antimicrobial Resistance were published in the fall 2010 edition of the *Canadian Journal for Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology*.
- » Professional and public awareness events on antimicrobial resistance were held Nov. 18, 2010 (Antibiotic Awareness Day) and April 7, 2011 (World Health Day). NCCID collaborated with partner organizations across Canada, and coordinated communications activities, including the launch of the AntibioticAwareness.ca website.
- » Collaborated with other NCCs on the Small Drinking Water Systems Project.
- » Developed a searchable, national disease database of all notifiable infections in Canadian jurisdictions. The database identifies federal/provincial/territorial reporting requirements.

- » Produced a companion summary for a full-length report by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH) on the accuracy, cost-effectiveness and compliance of diagnostic technologies for *Chlamydia* and gonorrhoea.
- » Sponsored a risk communication workshop hosted by OAHPP.

Current Activities 2011-2012

- » Communicable diseases of public health importance:
 - Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group, co-chaired by NCCID and PHAC.
 - Communication and Education Task Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.
 - Evidence reviews on pandemic A/H1N1 influenza.
 - Scoping activities in zoonoses and other diseases of public health importance.
 - The *Purple Paper* continues monthly. In the event of a public health emergency, it will again be a vehicle for rapid knowledge translation.
- » Partnerships and collaborations:
 - The Ontario HIV Treatment Network; PHAC HIV Prevention Framework Working Group; and the CIHR Social Research Centre (SRC) in HIV Prevention.
 - Continued pursuit of opportunities to collaborate in areas of zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance.
- » Interventions and programs:
 - Synthesize evidence on the relevance and applicability of new tools in public health (e.g. mapping, mathematical modeling).
 - Lead collaborative initiatives to look for ways to broaden risk communication training and activities in Canada.
 - Continue work on the Learning Site and Outreach Planning Guide.
 - Continue to participate in NCC projects.
- » Technology and tools:
 - Develop a new website and look for ways to implement social media.
 - Consultation regarding potential application of the national notifiable disease database.

Host

International Centre for Infectious Diseases Inc.

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Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT) focuses on improving access to and use of methods and tools for getting evidence into decision making for practice, programs and policy making.

Goals

- » Develop the organizational capacity and individual skills of those involved in public health to share what works in public health.
- » Identify, develop and evaluate relevant methods and tools for knowledge translation (KT) and make those methods and tools accessible to people involved in practice, program decision making, policy making and research.
- » Identify gaps in methods and tools for sharing what works in public health and encourage researchers and others to fill these gaps.
- » Build active and sustainable networks that enable practitioners, program decision makers, knowledge experts, policy makers and researchers to share what works in public health; and strengthen partnerships and linkages with other NCCs and their target audiences.

Work to Date

- » Developed and shared a variety of initiatives for skill development and capacity building related to evidence-informed decision making at both the individual and organizational level. Examples include in-person workshops, online learning modules (*Introduction to Evidence-informed Decision Making and Critical Appraisal of Intervention Studies*), a series of webcasts to support each of the seven steps of evidence-informed public health.
- » Prepared publications and fact sheets on a variety of KT-related issues, including networking in public health; the methods and implications of the rapid review process; a comparison of various methods for knowledge synthesis; risk communication for environmental health (a systematic review); barriers and facilitators associated with the implementation of the nurse practitioner (NP) role in Ontario; and, lessons learned from a case study of organizational capacity to implement EIDM.
- » Produced an online KT story illustrating evidence use in a public health media campaign. Videos and translated transcripts are posted online.
- » Established the Registry of Methods and Tools, an online collection of evidence-informed resources to support KT in public health.
- » Launched the Online Health Program Planner (OHPP), a tool developed in collaboration with The Health Communication Unit (THCU) at the Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto.
- » Created the DialoguePH knowledge translation network, including online discussion forum for network members.
- » Facilitated the creation of the Public Health Knowledge Translation Network (PHKTN) with representation from national and provincial/territorial public health associations; public health discipline associations; and academic institutions with graduate programs in public health.

- » Partnered with CHNET-works! on a pilot initiative to supplement Fireside Chats.

Current Activities 2011-2012

- » Launching revised website with redesigned look and navigation in response to feedback from target group and results of usability testing.
- » Identifying and, where necessary, developing methods and tools to support each step in the evidence-informed public health (EIPH) process.
- » Launching and promoting the Online Business Case Creator; a tool developed in collaboration with THCU.
- » Continuing to find and share stories to highlight public health initiatives that have used a KT method or tool.
- » Continuing to identify, evaluate and share existing KT resources.
- » Exploring creative, innovative and effective ways to engage target users» Developing and promoting additional online learning modules with optional self-assessments and certificates of completion.
- » Engaging in collaborative projects with the NCCs.
- » Continuing to evaluate NCCMT partnerships, communications, capacity-building and networking activities.
- » Engaging graduate and post-doctoral students in the work of NCCMT through our partnerships with the Population Health Intervention Research Network (PHIRNET) and other universities.
- » Facilitating the Public Health Knowledge Translation Network (PHKTN) working group initiated to address the EIPH capacity-building needs of member organizations.
- » Building relationships with public health organizations across Canada to raise awareness of KT methods and tools; support and implement EIPH capacity development opportunities; and foster networking among public health professionals.

Host

McMaster University

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The National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (NCCs) are working on various projects to which they all bring their expertise.

Small Drinking Water Systems Project

For the past three years, the NCCs have worked on a collaborative project on Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS) in Canada. This project's aim was to improve the safety of SDWS by providing public health authorities with the necessary evidence to inform practice and policy. Following the outbreaks of waterborne diseases that occurred in Canada over the past decade, the NCCEH commissioned a retrospective investigation of drinking water-related illnesses in Canada. This investigation concluded that outbreaks occurred mainly in small water systems. In 2009, six consultations were held across the country gathering experts from various sectors to discuss issues related to SDWS, and to identify knowledge gaps and needs. The publications produced through this project included: a mapping of SDWS organizations in Canada, a list of External Resources, a Fact Sheet on Home Water Test Kits, and also one on Circuit Riders programs and a systematic review on communication about environmental health risks. A few other publications are being produced and will be available at www.nccph.ca.

NCCPH Knowledge Translation Awards

The NCCPH Knowledge Translation Graduate Student Awards recognize the work of excellence of graduate students in knowledge translation (KT) in public health in Canada. In 2010, the NCCs honoured Fabian Besner, Kora DeBeck, Erica Pufall and Jena Webb.

The 2011 awards will be presented to Sherilee Harper, Fleur Macqueen Smith and Meghan Winters during the 2011 Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference in Montreal. The Centres wish to congratulate awards winners for the creativity and innovation shown in their projects.

NCC E-Bulletin

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- Case studies and Evidence Reviews
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