

The National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health
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The aim of the NCC-DH is to: 1) increase the knowledge base and influence practice at all levels in public health; and 2) increase partnerships and develop inter-sectoral collaborations to address specific determinants of health or combinations of those determinants. Hosted by an Atlantic-Canada based consortium of university – health authority partnerships, the mission of the NCC-DH is to engage the participation of researchers, policy-makers, health practitioners and the public in moving knowledge about the broad determinants of health into policy and practices to achieve social justice and health for all.

The NCC-DH is building on the prior work of the Atlantic National Collaborating Centre Working Group for the Social Determinants of Health, which includes representatives from provincial health departments in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and New Brunswick. This organization completed an environmental scan and think tank to identify experts, leaders, best practices and existing networks in the field – the NCC-DH is now examining current strategies being used for knowledge translation and identifying knowledge gaps that will need to be addressed; developing a range of mechanisms to communicate with stakeholders; identifying potential sources for future funding; developing proposals which address priority areas of activity (including health literacy); and collaborating with the other National Collaborating Centres (NCCs).

St. Francis Xavier University is the legal entity that houses the NCC, and is responsible for the Centre's administration and coordination functions. However, the direction of the Centre is controlled by the Consortium, which includes: the University of New Brunswick (UNB) and the Atlantic Health Services Corporation (AHSC); Cape Breton University (CBU) and Cape Breton District Health Authority (CBDHA) in Nova Scotia (NS); St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) and the Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority (GASHA) in Nova Scotia; and the Prince Edward Island Health Research Institute (PEI HRI) working in conjunction with the PEI Department of Health and Social Services. Membership negotiations for Newfoundland and Labrador are underway.

Members of the Host Consortium believe that it is vital for the work of NCC-DH to be participatory in principle, policy and practice, and will facilitate deliberative participation to achieve its mission and to support the mandate and functions of the NCC-DH. The Host Consortium will be the centre of a web of working groups linking expertise across Canada, and indeed internationally, on the broad determinants of health. Each group will build on current work

National Collaborating Centre Program
Description of, and Contacts for National Collaborating Centres

including the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, to increase access to knowledge about the determinants of health for public health program, practice and policy development across Canada.