



National Collaborating Centres  
for Public Health

Centres nationaux de collaboration  
en santé publique

Public Health Agency of Canada  
130 Colonnade Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9  
Tel.: (613) 946-8833  
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### NCCPH Goals

- ◆ Existing knowledge will be translated into useful evidence for public health.
- ◆ Gaps in knowledge and relevant applied research will inform the development of programs, policies and practice.

- ◆ Networks of regional, national and international expertise and practice across the domains of public health will address and facilitate the management of public health priorities.
- ◆ Evidence will be used to support the development of mechanisms and interventions which improve the quality of public health programs, policies and practices.



National Collaborating Centre  
for Aboriginal Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
de la santé Autochtone

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Infectious Diseases

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des maladies infectieuses

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
en santé environnementale

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Methods and Tools

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des méthodes et outils

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National Collaborating Centres  
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Centres nationaux de collaboration  
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# National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health

## Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAHA) supports Aboriginal communities across Canada in realizing their health goals. The centre builds bridges between Aboriginal peoples' approaches to public health and health research centres, service delivery agencies, and policy-makers at the federal, provincial, and regional levels.

## Goals

- ◆ Increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal child health by developing culturally relevant materials and projects, and by making these materials available in both official languages and in Aboriginal languages where appropriate
- ◆ Increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal public health by developing culturally relevant materials and projects
- ◆ Establish new and strengthen existing partnerships at the national and international level in order to support greater Aboriginal participation in the public health initiatives that affect First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples
- ◆ Evaluate the activities of the NCCAHA, identify areas for improvement, and ensure accountability to our partners, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations and communities and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

## Work to Date

- ◆ Conducted extensive consultations with Aboriginal organizations, community leaders, and public health practitioners to identify priorities and create a strong and durable foundation for future collaboration
- ◆ Established a national advisory committee to guide our work
- ◆ Researched and prepared several scoping reviews and health research papers that identified a dearth of evidence-informed research in areas of public health, critical to the health of Aboriginal peoples
- ◆ Organized and participated in conferences, symposia, and dialogue circles on Aboriginal child health issues, including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and on Indigenous social determinants of health

## Current Activities 2007-2008

- ◆ Continuing our work on FASD by publishing papers on the scope of FASD in the Aboriginal populations of Canada and holding web symposiums with key stakeholders in policy, research, and practice
- ◆ Beginning to examine the impact of parenting as a determinant of health for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children
- ◆ Coordinating the production and distribution of papers on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis social determinants of health
- ◆ Completing an environmental scan of HIV/AIDS as it applies to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples
- ◆ Implementing a peer review process of NCCAHA materials, tools, and products
- ◆ Establishing a National Stakeholders Reference Group made up of representatives from a wide range of national Aboriginal organizations; these stakeholders will provide us with their views on Aboriginal health in Canada and engage in the peer review process for NCCAHA materials, tools, and products
- ◆ Holding a series of Dialogue Circles, bringing together experts in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis public health to explore the nature of evidence in Aboriginal health
- ◆ Collaborating with the other NCCs and PHAC to develop an NCC program evaluation framework
- ◆ Assessing all NCCAHA materials, events, and initiatives completed to date to determine their reach and effectiveness

## Host:

University of Northern British Columbia

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Aboriginal Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
de la santé Autochtone



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# National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health

## Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH) focuses on the social and economic factors that influence the health of Canadians. Our mission is to engage researchers, policy-makers, health practitioners, and the public so as to better include knowledge about the broad determinants of health in policy and practice decisions that will achieve social justice and health for all.

## Goals

- ◆ Synthesize, translate, and exchange knowledge for practitioners and policy-makers
- ◆ Identify key gaps in research and practice knowledge
- ◆ Build capacity through networks of practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers in determinants of health
- ◆ Increase partnerships and develop intersectoral collaborations to address specific determinants of health or combinations of those determinants

## Work to Date

- ◆ Established an Atlantic Canada-based consortium of universities and public health authorities to support the work of the centre
- ◆ Established a national advisory committee of experts in the field
- ◆ Examined and assessed prior work done to identify experts, leaders, and best practices in using knowledge about social determinants of health in public health decision-making and practice
- ◆ Hosted and sponsored multiple think tanks and workshops on the determinants of health, on evidence about the determinants of health, on strategies for using this knowledge in practical ways, and on knowledge gaps related to health determinants
- ◆ Conducted an environmental scan on evaluated interventions in literacy in general and health literacy in particular

## Current Activities 2007/2008

- ◆ Collaborating with other organizations, including other NCCs, to examine how health literacy is framed as a determinant of health within public health practice and policy in Canada
- ◆ Preparing and disseminating an analytical review of the social and economic determinants of health, conducting an expert roundtable on the subject, and disseminating conclusions to the broader public health community
- ◆ Partnering with the WHO and others to examine health determinants related to maternal and infant health
- ◆ Working with other NCCs to contribute knowledge about the determinants of health to their work in key areas of interest

## Host:

St. Francis Xavier University

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

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des déterminants de la santé



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# National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

## Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH) focuses on how environmental factors such as drinking water, food, air, and shelter can affect human health, and identifies evidence-based interventions to reduce risks from environmental hazards.

## 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

- ◆ Carried out an environmental scan with extensive input from practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers in Canada and completed a comprehensive “Needs, Gaps, and Opportunities Assessment” to identify priority needs
- ◆ Established a national advisory board to advise on the work of the centre
- ◆ Launched a bilingual website to provide a vehicle for sharing information and making connections

## Current Activities 2007-2008

- ◆ Producing reviews and guidance documents in collaboration with practitioners and policy-makers on topics such as small mercury spills, clandestine drug labs, environmental tobacco smoke, home drinking water filters, and indoor radon
- ◆ Identifying key research gaps in environmental health
- ◆ Offering secondments and practica
- ◆ Developing a summer course in environmental health
- ◆ Enhancing our new website with, e.g. a project matching service for policy-makers, practitioners, and researchers and an inventory of environmental health training programs
- ◆ Conducting a multi-year project to enumerate past cases of waterborne illnesses in Canada and identifying drinking water system risk factors associated with them
- ◆ Planning a summer institute on knowledge synthesis, translation, and exchange in collaboration with the other NCCs and PHAC
- ◆ Developing an evaluation framework for the NCCEH and conducting a baseline evaluation

## Host:

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Environmental Health

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en santé environnementale



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# National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

## Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP) supports the efforts of the Canadian public health community in promoting healthy public policy through more informed strategies. Our focus is public policy with a potential impact on social, economic, and environmental determinants of health. We provide public health actors and partners with relevant research-based information and tools in English and French 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, exchange, and use appropriate to healthy public policy
- ◆ Translate and disseminate knowledge about healthy public policy and the policy-making process itself, 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

- ◆ Began a pilot study to improve knowledge and understanding of various policy options for reducing obesity, identifying promising public policy options to address obesity issues in the Canadian context
- ◆ Documented and summarized multisectoral approaches for healthy public policy, e.g. Article 54 of Quebec's Public Health Law and the ACTNOW initiative in BC
- ◆ Worked in conjunction with other National Collaborating Centres to promote awareness of the the NCC program, to structure the evaluation framework and to produce common services, tools and documents including a Profile of Public Health Structures.
- ◆ Prepared a strategic scan, analyses, and knowledge syntheses in healthy public policy, and created a website to collect and disseminate, in both languages, relevant resources for Canadian public health actors

## Current Activities 2007-2008

- ◆ Facilitating the use of health impact assessment in Canada by adapting its methods to specific Canadian contexts, in supporting a network of interested actors, and in acting as a catalyst to develop and disseminate a home-grown expertise to respond to Canadian needs
- ◆ Identifying and assessing promising public policy options to address obesity in the Canadian context
- ◆ Exploring additional multisectoral approaches for healthy public policy
- ◆ Collaborating with others on public policies to address health inequalities
- ◆ Creating a clearinghouse for healthy public policy, including building our website

## Host:

Institut national de santé publique du Québec

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**Québec**



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# National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases

## Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) serves to bridge the ongoing research and evidence in emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with the program and policy questions of front-line public health practitioners and policy-makers.

## Goals & Objectives

- ◆ Protect the health of Canadians by facilitating the use of evidence and emerging research on infectious diseases to inform public health programs and policy
- ◆ Encourage the integration of evidence on infectious diseases into public health programs, policies, and practices
- ◆ Enable 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

- ◆ Conducted the Foresight Exercise to identify emerging priorities and trends in infectious diseases in Canada
- ◆ Developed an HIV Prevention initiative to re-invigorate HIV prevention in Canada through a more strategic, coordinated, and evidence-based approach
- ◆ Surveyed public health practitioners from each province and territory on sources of and gaps in knowledge related to HIV prevention and on priorities in HIV preventions
- ◆ Presented prevention evidence and issues at meetings of HIV service providers, public health practitioners, and AIDS service organizations
- ◆ Translated health information on pandemic influenza into health knowledge products for businesses ([www.pandemicbusinesstoolkit.ca](http://www.pandemicbusinesstoolkit.ca))

## Current Activities 2007-2008

- ◆ Consulting with national, regional, and local partners and stakeholders to identify priority evidence-based areas for the work of the centre
- ◆ Producing evidence-based reviews on the spread of HIV and on interventions
- ◆ Sharing survey results on evidence and knowledge related to HIV prevention
- ◆ Co-hosting the national HIV Prevention Forum with the Public Health Agency of Canada
- ◆ Conducting regional think tanks and other consultative forums to engage stakeholders in information-sharing on evidence-based policies and interventions to prevent the spread of HIV
- ◆ Sharing HIV prevention knowledge and evidence with Canada's Aboriginal community, in partnership with the NCC for Aboriginal Health
- ◆ Contributing to the mapping of public health functions in the area of infectious disease surveillance and control, and exploring a possible joint project to examine key issues related to infectious diseases and immigration policy with the NCC for Healthy Public Policy
- ◆ Continuing to present prevention evidence and issues at relevant meetings

## Host:

International Centre for Infectious Diseases Inc.  
Winnipeg, MB

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Website TBA



National Collaborating Centre  
for Infectious Diseases

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des maladies infectieuses



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# National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools

## Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT) focuses on improving access to and use of evidence-based methods and tools for stakeholders involved in policy-making, program decision-making, practice, and research in Canada.

## Goals

- ◆ Identify, develop, and evaluate methods and tools for the process of knowledge synthesis, translation, and exchange (KSTE)
- ◆ Improve access to and use of relevant KSTE methods and tools for people involved in public health policy-making, program decision-making, practice, and research
- ◆ Identify gaps in KSTE methods and tools and encourage researchers and others to fill these gaps
- ◆ Raise awareness of evidence-informed practice among those involved in public health
- ◆ Develop the capacity of those involved in public health to use KSTE methods and tools
- ◆ Build active and sustainable networks of KSTE experts and public health policy-makers, practitioners, and researchers, as well as partnerships with the other national collaborating centres, and create linkages with their stakeholder groups

## Work to Date

- ◆ Engaged in national consultations with the public health community at large and with the other NCCs to identify priority activities for the NCCMT
- ◆ Conducted a workshop with experts in KSTE to identify ways to support the use of knowledge by public health practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers
- ◆ Completed two syntheses of KSTE literature to identify evidence on the applicability and transferability of research to specific settings and identify tools for the critical appraisal of systematic reviews
- ◆ Established a national advisory group comprised of public health and KSTE experts and practitioners to guide the ongoing work of the NCCMT
- ◆ Officially launched the NCCMT on May 17, 2007, hosted by McMaster University and the Public Health Agency of Canada

## Current Activities 2007-2008

- ◆ Establishing an active network with key people involved in public health across Canada and internationally
- ◆ Identifying and evaluating existing KSTE methods and tools in public health nationally and internationally
- ◆ Identifying gaps in existing KSTE methods and tools, selecting one gap, and collaborating with an appropriate group to address the gap
- ◆ Determining the knowledge needs and preferences of the other NCCs, PHAC, and other public health decision-makers and policy-makers to support the development of an integrated knowledge management system
- ◆ Creating an online resource of evidence for public health practice, in collaboration with others
- ◆ Developing and testing search strategies for finding studies of knowledge translation that will be synthesized and circulated nationally and internationally

## Host:

McMaster University

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