



CANADIAN
PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Public Health



The Canadian Public Health Association calls on the federal government to lead provincial and territorial governments and other stakeholders in creating cohesive, comprehensive and accountable public health systems in Canada.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS in Canada

STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS OF COHESIVE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

WHAT

public health does



1

Core functions

2

Population health goals

WHO

delivers public health



3

Workforce competencies

4

Workforce training

HOW

public health is organized



5

Governance

CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Population
Health Assessment



Health
Protection



Health
Surveillance



Disease & Injury
Prevention



Health
Promotion



Emergency
preparedness
and response

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

We call on the Government of Canada to:



CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

- 1 Convene provincial and territorial governments to create a pan-Canadian statement of core public health functions, establishing a shared commitment to the mandate of public health services.

POPULATION HEALTH GOALS

- 2 Work as a partner with provincial and territorial governments to translate agreed-upon core public health functions into a set of high-level population health goals specifying outcomes that public health services will be accountable to deliver for Canadian populations.
- 3 Seek agreement on pan-Canadian outcome indicators to measure progress toward achieving these population health goals.

WORKFORCE COMPETENCIES

- 4 Collaborate with provincial and territorial governments, and with relevant stakeholders, to produce an updated list of public health competencies.

WORKFORCE TRAINING

- 5 Lead consultations on a pan-Canadian training program for public health professionals based on a renewed set of public health competencies. Determine optimal formats for training delivery.
- 6 Commit to funding an online training platform for the public health workforce, to be developed and delivered by the Public Health Agency of Canada or delegated to a qualified stakeholder organization.

GOVERNANCE

7 LEAD THE CREATION OF A NEW CANADA PUBLIC HEALTH ACT THAT WOULD:

- Define core functions and goals of public health services in Canada;
- Detail the federal mandate for supporting public health at the national level and in collaboration with provinces and territories;
- Allocate targeted new funding transfers to provinces and territories that would fill gaps in their capacity to provide public health services;
- Assign accountabilities for reporting, monitoring and evaluating public health outcomes within provincial and territorial health systems, and require annual reporting on nation-wide progress toward meeting public health goals; and

- Support public health emergency planning and define in legislation federal public health emergency powers related to areas in which pan-Canadian coordination is essential (e.g., immunization, manufacturing capacity, and data reporting).

8 ADOPT GOVERNANCE PRACTICES ENABLING PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTISE TO INFORM HEALTHY PUBLIC POLICY BY:

- Identifying performance measurement indicators best suited to assess the impacts of public health in improving health and promoting health equity;
- Establishing targeted governmental mechanisms to foster cross-departmental collaboration to promote population health; and
- Structuring governance bodies and processes to increase the voice and authority of affected communities both in routine governance of public health and during public health emergencies.



**CANADIAN
PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION**

Canadian Public Health Association is the independent national voice and trusted advocate for public health, speaking up for people and populations to all levels of government.

OUR VISION Healthy people and communities thriving in inclusive, equitable, sustainable environments.

OUR MISSION To enhance the health of all people and communities in Canada, particularly those who are structurally disadvantaged, and to contribute to a healthier and more equitable world.