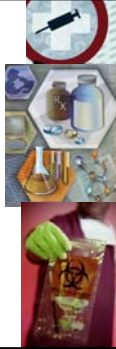


**2006 Public Health and Preparedness:  
Cross-Borders Issues Roundtable**

**Canada's  
Public Health System:  
A Collaborative Approach**



Wayne Dauphinee  
Executive Director  
Emergency Management Branch



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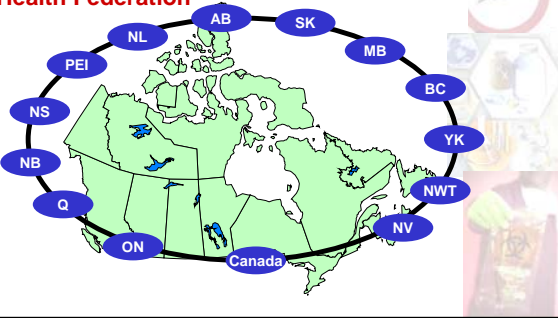
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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Health Federation**



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Public Health in Canada**



- Public health is part of the overall continuum of health efforts
- Core functions of disease prevention and control, health protection and health promotion, supported by surveillance, research, policy and legislation, and human resources
- Includes a wide range of activities, from school vaccine programs, to anti-tobacco advertising, to emergency preparedness and response



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Federal Legislation**

- Canada Health Act
- Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
- Quarantine Act
- Pest Control Products Act
- Tobacco Act



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Canada Health Act**

**The Guarantees:**

- Public Administration
- Comprehensive
- Universal
- Portable
- Accessible



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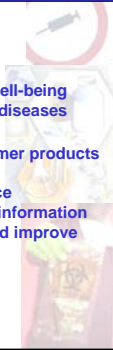
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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Health Canada**

- Promote and preserve physical, mental and social well-being
- Protect against risks to health and the spreading of diseases
- Investigate and research into public health
- Establish and control of safety standards for consumer products
- Protect public health on railways, ships and aircraft
- Promote and preserve the health of the public service
- Collect, analyze, interpret, publish and distribute of information
- Cooperate with provincial authorities to preserve and improve public health.



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Canadian Public Health Strategy**

- Specific health targets
- Benchmarks for progress
- Collaborative mechanisms to maximize the pace of progress
- Collaborate with all departments, jurisdictions and stakeholders



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Public Health Agency of Canada**

- Works closely with provinces and territories to keep Canadians healthy and reduce pressures on Canada's health care system
- Focuses on:
  - public health threats
  - surveillance and research
  - using the best available evidence and tools for advice
  - providing public health information
  - building and sustaining a public health network



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**Public Health Network Governance**

- **Council:** Represents the Network to the public
- **Expert Groups:** Coordinates and facilitates activities
- **Issue Groups:** Conducts research & consultation
- **Task Groups:** Address emerging public health issues



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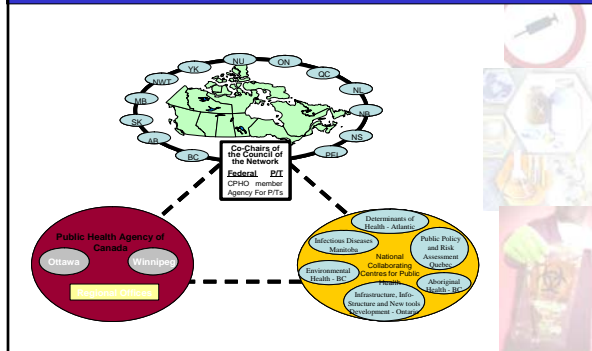
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## Canada's Public Health System




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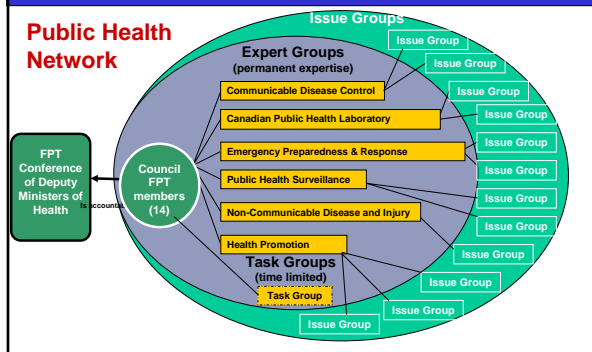
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## Canada's Public Health System




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## Canada's Public Health System

### Network Mandate

- The Network will function as a mechanism for intergovernmental collaboration and coordination on public health issues
- As such, the Network will:
  - Facilitate information sharing among all jurisdictions;
  - Disseminate information regarding best-practices in public health;
  - Support the public health challenges jurisdictions face during emergencies;
  - Provide advice and regular reporting to CDM on public health matters and the activities of the Network;
  - Collaborate on the day-to-day operations of public health;
  - Respect jurisdictional responsibilities in public health;
  - Be accountable to the CDM

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## Canada's Public Health System

### Challenges

- Prediction
- Public health (preparedness) throughout the system
- Communication with and involvement of the "front line"
- Domestic and International continuum



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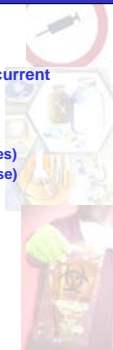
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## Canada's Public Health System

### Challenges

New and existing public health issues challenge our current capabilities, such as:

- Infectious diseases
  - new (e.g. SARS, West Nile, threats of bioterrorism)
  - existing (e.g., HIV/AIDS, vaccine preventable diseases)
  - drug-resistant (e.g., tuberculosis, flesh-eating disease)
  - food- and water-borne infections
- Growing burden of chronic diseases and injuries
- Environmental threats (pollutants, toxins)
- Persistent disparities in health for some groups



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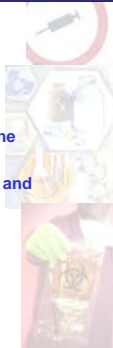
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## Canada's Public Health System

### Gap Highlights

- Public health system needs to be more prepared to cope with more than one crisis at a time.
- Difficult to sustain ongoing work in a crisis (e.g. routine health care, health promotion)
- Challenges in patient safety, containment, quarantine and epidemiological capacity
- Non-health sectors not clear on how they need to contribute to public health



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## Canada's Public Health System

### Initiatives

- Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network
- National Collaborating Centres for Public Health
  - determinants of health
  - public policy and risk assessment
  - public health methodologies and tools development
  - infectious diseases
  - environmental health
  - aboriginal health
- National Health Emergency Management Framework
- National Health Emergency Management System



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## Canada's Public Health System

### Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network

Mandate:

Develop and implement strategies to:

- Coordinate pathogen detection, infectious disease prevention and control;
- Conduct laboratory-based surveillance including the development of early warning systems to monitor and detect emerging pathogens, antibiotic resistant organisms and outbreaks; and counter bioterrorist threats.



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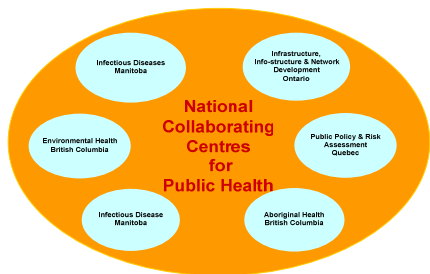
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## Canada's Public Health System



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**National Health Emergency Management Framework**

- Comprehensive Emergency Management
- Strategic Programs Approach
- All Hazards / Common Consequences
- Sustainability
- Resiliency
- Pan-Canadian, trans-jurisdictional



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**Canada's Public Health System**

**National Health Emergency Management Framework**

- The Framework is based on “complementary and expandable” facets:
  - Physical Health (individual perspective)
  - Public Health (population perspective)
  - Emergency Social Services (societal perspective)
  - Maintenance of Activities (organizational)
- Communications supports all sectors



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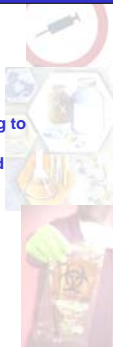
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**Canada's Public Health System**

**National Health Emergency Management System**

- Requires cross-jurisdiction policy-making and planning to ensure coordinated response capacity.
- Both system requirements and enabling legislation and tools (e.g., mutual assistance agreements).
- Requires integrative approach (public health, health emergency management, emergency social services, public health labs, etcetera).
- Incremental in implementation.



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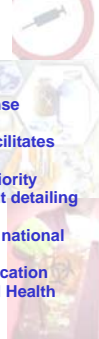
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Canada's Public Health System

**National Health Incident Management System**

- Consensus on need for national health emergency response system.
- Emphasis on complementary and flexible model which facilitates coordination, planning, and communication.
- To facilitate consultation and eventual implementation, priority should be given to developing a comprehensive document detailing the components and requirements.
- Need for ongoing consultation at all levels to ensure both national and local needs and priorities are adequately addressed.
- National strategy should be developed to address the education and training needs related to implementation of a National Health Incident Management System.



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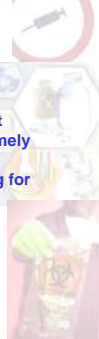
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Canada's Public Health System

**Federal Provincial Territorial Emergency Management Assistance Arrangements**

- Common principles to enable any jurisdiction to request assistance and expertise from other jurisdictions in a timely and efficient manner in an emergency where health resources are or may be overwhelmed or in the planning for or recovery from an emergency.



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Canada's Public Health System

**Questions**



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