

Advancing Health in All Policies at the federal level

Pan-Canadian Meeting on Health in All Policies

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Outline

- Importance of Health in All Policies (HiAP) for action on the social determinants of health
- Existing levers for HiAP in the federal government
- Our hopes and dreams...

Leadership by other jurisdictions



Importance of HiAP for action on social determinants of health

“Upstream”

Social determinants of health

“Downstream”

Individual-level risk factors and outcomes

Social and economic policies



Stigma and discrimination



Income, education, employment



Safe and secure housing



Food security



Healthy built environments



Healthy living (diet, physical activity, etc.)



Preventative health education and services



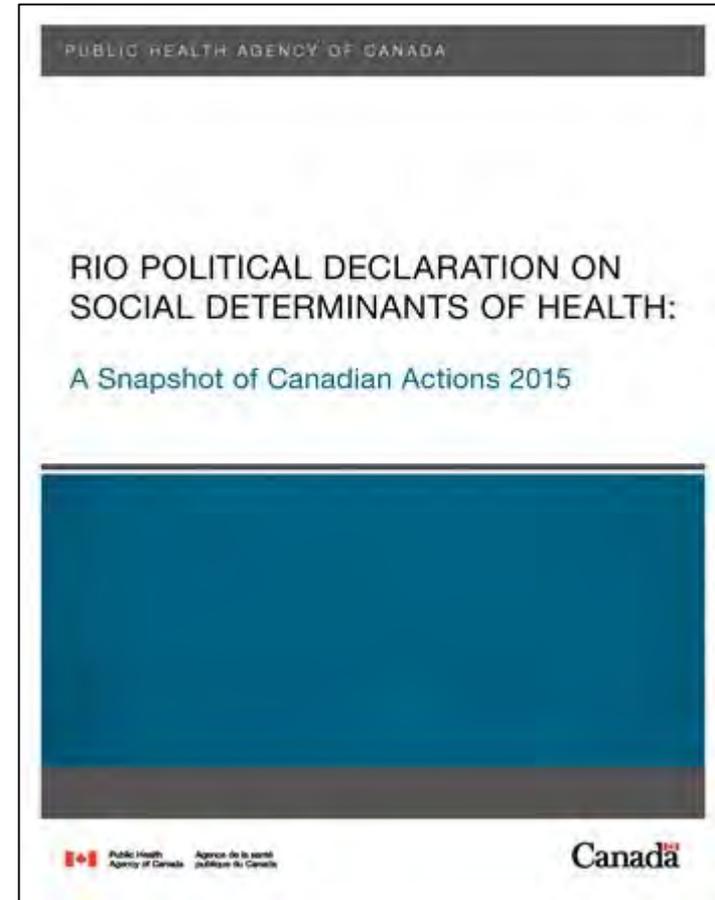
Health care treatment



The most effective way for public health to improve health equity is to design interventions that **account for and act on** those social and economic conditions

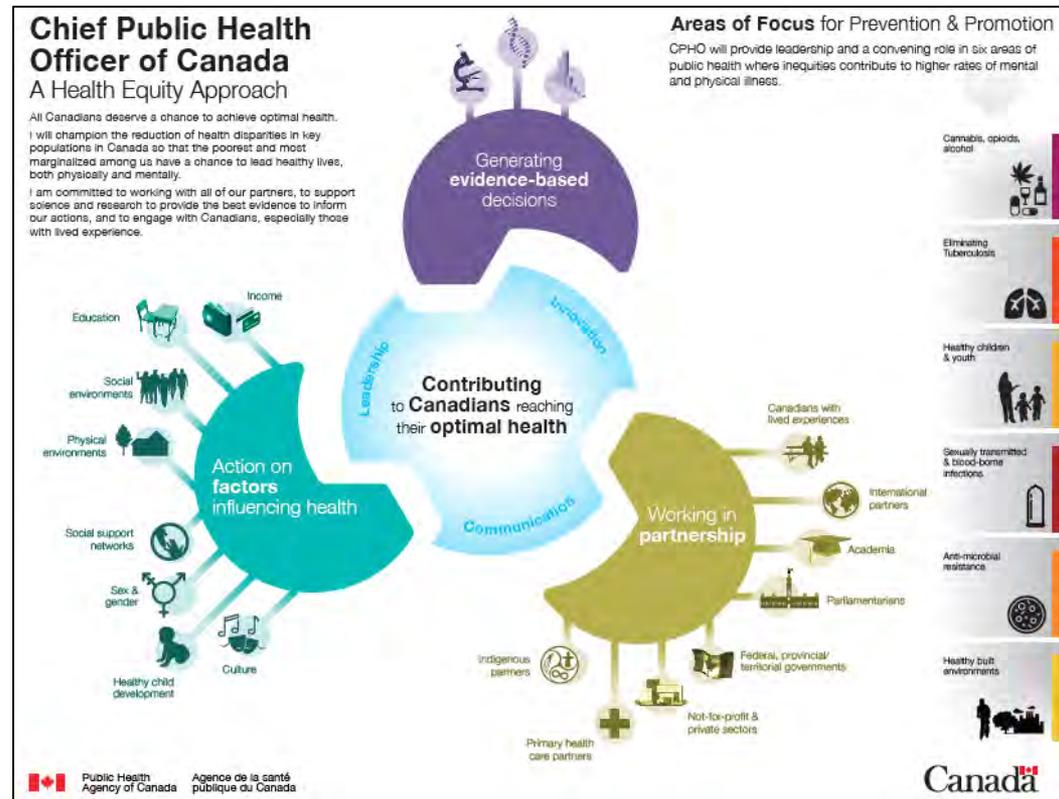
Existing levers that support HiAP at the federal level

- Increasing attention to opportunities for departments to collaborate to address shared priorities – e.g. joint mandates; linked budget announcements
- National strategy [to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- Canada endorsed the [Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health](#) (2012) – includes commitments to:
 - **better governance for health** and development
 - **reorienting the health sector** towards reducing health inequities



Existing levers that support HiAP within PHAC

- Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's [health equity approach](#) (2017)
 - **Partner** across sectors
 - Act on **factors that drive health** (social determinants)
 - Address **multi-sectoral issues** (healthy built environments, healthy children and youth)
- *Plan to Advance Health Equity* (2016) themes on leveraging actions within and **beyond the health care sector**
- Mandated investments in multi-sectoral partnerships and health equity action



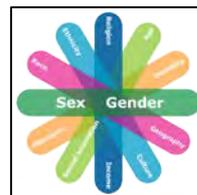
Areas of work in the “spirit of HiAP” at the federal level

Some of the ways in which we are working to advance HiAP at the federal level include:

1. Commitments to whole-of-government action 
2. Leadership and participation in multi-sectoral initiatives 
3. Leveraging priorities in other government departments 

Key elements of HiAP:

- **Promotes health equity**
- **Supports multi-sectoral collaboration**
- **Benefits multiple partners**
- **Engaging partners outside of the health sector**
- **Creates structural change**



Mental Health
Promotion

1. Commitments to whole-of-government action

- [Opioid Response Team](#)
- [Gender-Based Analysis Plus \(GBA+\)](#)
- [Sex and Gender-Based Analysis Plus \(SGBA+\)](#)
- Federal Interdepartmental Committee on Mental Health

2. Leadership and participation in multi-sectoral initiatives

- [Pan-Canadian Health Inequalities Reporting Initiative \(HIR\)](#)
- [Canadian Council on Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Multi-sectoral partnerships to promote healthy living and prevent chronic disease](#)
- Many other ad hoc multi-sectoral initiatives

3. Leveraging priorities of other government departments

- Budget 2018 announced \$19 million to address the significant and unique challenges faced by Black Canadians
 - Canadian Heritage's [*Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019-2022*](#)
 - PHAC's [*Promoting Health Equity: Mental Health of Black Canadians*](#)
- Bill C-69 (2019) introduced [a new federal process for impact assessment](#), that involves considering health, social, and economic impacts of proposed resource and infrastructure projects (Led by the **Impact Assessment Agency of Canada**)
- Literacy and Essential Skills Network (led by **Employment and Social Development Canada**)
- Many others...

Challenges, Hopes, and Dreams for HiAP in Canada

- An ongoing challenge to implementing a HiAP approach is working upstream to target the drivers of health inequities at the structural level. This challenge is exacerbated by:
 - No formal commitments or goals related to HiAP at the federal level
 - Lack of dedicated resources to support HiAP action
 - No systematic processes for identifying links between health and policy outcomes when undertaking HiAP
- Looking forward, we hope to support further coordination towards a HiAP approach across jurisdictions and sectors in Canada.
 - Capturing momentum to sustain a formal dialogue on HiAP in Canada to allow ongoing work and commitments to advance
 - Greater knowledge exchange on HiAP implementation, including evidence of impacts and effectiveness, and links to health equity
 - Stronger evidence on the contribution of social spending to positive health outcomes, to inform budgeting and funding decisions