

## FACT SHEET: FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CANADIAN COALITION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

What is the current level of expenditures by the federal and provincial / territorial governments on public health and what further investments are required to promote and protect the health of Canadians?

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

A well-resourced public health system helps protect Canadians from infectious disease, provides access to safe drinking water and food, and ensures good sanitation and clean air. It also promotes healthier lifestyles and healthy physical and social environments.

While the benefits of a good public health system often go unnoticed, the consequences of poor planning and inadequate investment in public health can be grave. The 2003 outbreak of SARS posed unprecedented challenges to Canada's public health system. Addressing threats such as SARS, West Nile Virus, food-borne illnesses and the epidemic of

childhood obesity will require additional federal and provincial/territorial investments.

### WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

In 2002-2003, total public health expenditures in Canada (2002-2003) were estimated at \$2B; \$325.3 million funded by the federal government and \$1.7 billion by provincial / territorial governments. This corresponds to per capita expenditures of \$65. CIHI has forecasted 2002 health expenditures of \$79.4 billion for the public sector alone, and \$112.2 billion for the public and private sectors combined. Public health therefore amounts to 1.8% of total health expenditures (public and private) or 2.6% of publicly funded expenditures in Canada.

Detailed information on public health expenditures in Canada is not readily available. The data published by the Canadian Institute for Health Information [CIHI] under the public health category includes administrative spending for many other parts of the health care system. CIHI intends to publish public health expenditures data separate from general administrative costs of government ministries.

### WHAT SOLUTIONS DOES THE COALITION RECOMMEND?

The coalition strongly supports the recommendations outlined in the report of the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health in October 2003 [the Naylor Report]. The

table below contrasts the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee with announcements for new federal funding for the fiscal year 2004/2005.

#### *Health Canada Expenditures for Public Health*

	Naylor Recommendations	New Federal Funding
Public Health Partnerships	\$300M / year	\$200M / 3 years*
Canadian Agency for Public Health	\$200M / year	\$165M / 3 years**
Communicable Disease Control Fund	\$100M / year	
National Immunization Strategy	\$100M / year	\$300 M / 3 years
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$700M / year</b>	<b>\$665 M / 3 years</b>

\* Includes \$100M for provincial public health systems and \$100M for Canada Health Infoway

\*\* In addition to \$404M transferred from Health Canada's Population and Public Health Branch for the Health Agency

Long term sustainable funding is needed to strengthen the integrity of the public health system which complements the health care system. The coalition recommends that a substantial majority of the new federal spending on public health be directed to initiatives and programs that will create a seamless, strengthened, and collaborative F/P/T public health system.

### WHAT IS THE COALITION?

The Coalition (CCPH21) is a partnership of national non-governmental, professional, health, and research organizations with a specific interest in advocating for a public health system that is able to protect and promote health, and to prevent disease and injury.

#### Principles:

1. Public health is a national responsibility requiring a pan-Canadian approach with shared

leadership across sectors, other systems that serve Canadians and provincial/territorial jurisdictions.

2. The public health focus on populations and communities is an integral component of the health system.
3. Communicable and non-communicable disease and injury are effectively addressed by public health approaches and must be considered together for a healthy population.
4. Public health activities can reduce pressures on the health care system.
5. Funding to public health is an essential and strategic investment for Canadians and the economy.
6. Canada requires immediate and sustained action and investment in public health in order to protect, promote and preserve health.

### Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century Membership (May 6, 2004)

Association of Canadian Academic HealthCare Organizations	Canadian Society for International Health
Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health	Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
Canadian Association for School Health	Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Canadian Cancer Society	Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada
Canadian Dental Association	Community & Hospital Infection Control Association Canada
Canadian College of Health Service Executives	Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association	Institute of Population Health - University of Ottawa
Canadian Diabetes Association	National Specialty Society for Community Medicine
Canadian Healthcare Association	Canadian Animal Health Coalition
Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Population and Public Health	Ontario Public Health Association
Canadian Medical Association	Safe Kids Canada
Canadian Nurses Association	The Lung Association
Canadian Paediatric Society	University of Toronto, Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine
Canadian Pharmacists Association	Susan McBroom, Claire Betker, Regional representatives of public health concerns
Canadian Psychological Association	Special Advisors: Maureen Law, Larry Chambers and Jack Lee
Canadian Public Health Association	

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