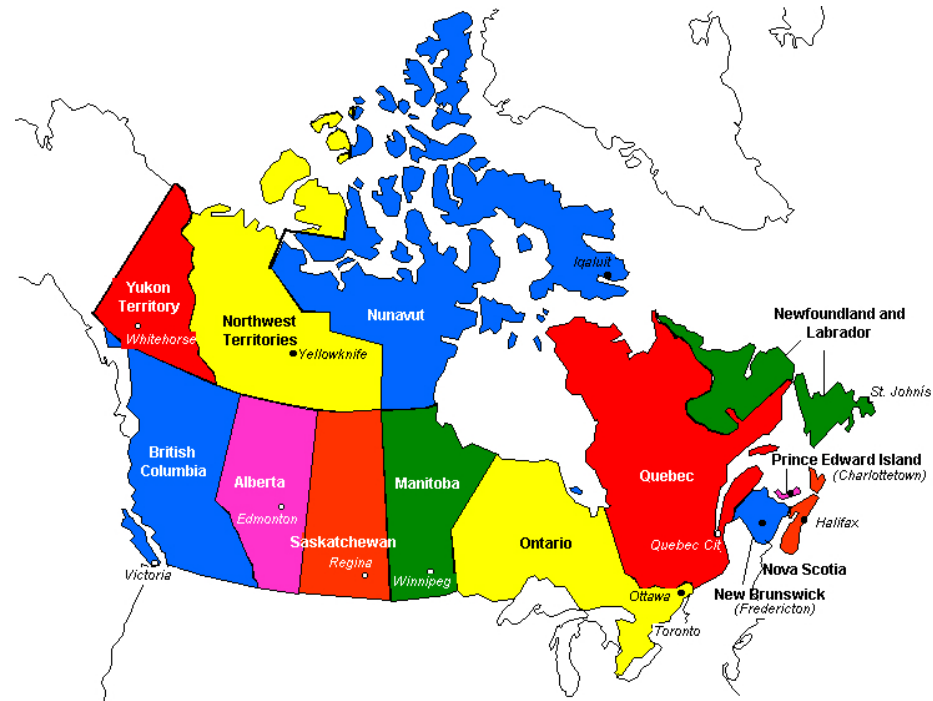


# Canada's Public Health System



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**Public Health and Preventive Medicine Webinar**

**October 6, 2016**

# Objectives:

- Greater understanding of the structure and organization of public health systems in Canada

# What is Public Health?



# From PHAC

Public health is defined as the organized efforts of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness and premature death. It is a combination of programs, services and policies that protect and promote the health of all Canadians.

# From the US CDC

## **Public health connects us all.**

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases.

Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country or region of the world.

Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research – in contrast to clinical professionals like doctors and nurses, who focus primarily on treating individuals after they become sick or injured. Public health also works to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility.

**There is a difference between the broad  
concept of Public Health and formal Public  
Health Services**

# Canadian Public Health

- Canadian jurisdiction for public health is shared between the federal government, the provinces, and, increasingly indigenous peoples
  - Canada is one of only ~ 25 true federations and one of the most decentralized
  - Municipalities are “creations of the provinces” and have no inherent autonomy
  - Role of Indigenous persons and nations and public health is very much up for discussion
- The Federal government derives its claims for jurisdiction from its authority over criminal law, “peace, order, and good government”, aboriginal health, quarantine, the military, federal prisons, citizenship, patents, international treaties, and its ability to spend its money as it wishes – “spending power”.

# Canadian Public Health

- “...individual and public health were considered by the drafters of the 1867 Constitution to be matters of local rather than national concern. While “health” is not an expressly enumerated subject under section 91 or 92 of the Constitution Act, 1867, section 92(7) grants the provinces exclusive jurisdiction in relation to the establishment, maintenance and management of hospitals. Section 92(13) and section 92(16) provide for provincial jurisdiction over “property and civil rights” and “local or private” matters in the province.”



# Provincial Public health

- A lot of different models but all provinces have some sort of provincially-based, centralized services and more regionally or locally based services.
- Ontario stands out for retaining municipal led public health
- Most other provinces have local public health integrated into Regional Authorities and/or provincial authorities
- There are different relationships in different provinces

# For a lot more details see:

<http://www.ncchpp.ca/en/structuralprofile.aspx>



D. Disease and Injury Prevention														
B.C.	Alta.	Sask.	Man.	Ont.	Que.	N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	N.L.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nun.	CA	
Chronic Disease/Injury Prevention and Health Promotion Branch, Ministry of Health	Primary Health Care Division, Alberta Health Services	Population Health Branch, Ministry of Health	Communicable Disease Control Branch, Public Health and Primary Health Care Division, Manitoba Health	Public Health Policy Branch, Public Health and Primary Health Care Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	Public Health Policy Branch, Public Health and Primary Health Care Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	Communicable Disease Branch, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Department of Health	Communicable Disease Branch, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Department of Health	Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, DEW	Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, Health	Communicable Disease Control Division, DSHC	Chief Medical Officer of Health	Prevention Services Unit, Community Health Services Division, Department of Health and Social Services	Communicable Disease Control Unit, Department of Health	Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada
Communicable Disease Prevention, Harm Reduction and Mental Health Promotion, Population and Public Health Division, Ministry of Health	Region Services and Contracting Care Division, Alberta Health Services	Primary Health Services Branch, Ministry of Health	Environmental Health Branch, Public Health and Primary Health Care Division, Manitoba Health	Chronic Illness and Trauma Prevention Branch, Public Health and Primary Health Care Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	Chronic Illness and Trauma Prevention Branch, Public Health and Primary Health Care Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	Healthy People Unit, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Department of Health	Healthy Communities, DEW	Community Hospital and Primary Health Care P.E.I.	Chronic Disease and Community Relations Division, DSHC	Rukon Communicable Diseases Control, Health Services Division, Department of Health and Social Services	Chief Public Health Officer, Department of Health and Social Services	Health Promotion Unit, Public Health Branch, Department of Health	The Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada	
Health Promotion, Disease/Injury Prevention Unit, Population and Public Health Services, Alberta Health Services		Disease Prevention Unit, Ministry of Health	Manitoba Health Living and Seniors	Public Health Ontario	Individual and Social Environment Development Department, Public Health Department, Ministry of Health and Social Services	Healthy Development, DEW		Senior's Secretariat, Office of Seniors, Department of Community Services and Seniors	Mental Health and Addictions Division, DSHC	Community Health Programs Branch, Health Services Division, Department of Health and Social Services	Health Protection Unit, Population Health Services, Department of Health and Social Services	Public Health Branch, Department of Health	Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada	
Provincial, Territorial or Federal Level	BC Centre for Disease Control		Ministry of Social Services	Manitoba Family Services and Labour				Child and Family Services Division, Department of Community Services and Seniors	Other departments	Community Nursing Branch, Health Services Division, Department of Health and Social Services		Department of Family Services	Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada	
	Ministry of Children and Family Development				Public Health Protection Department, Public Health Department, Ministry of Health and Social Services			Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation, DEW		Two branches from the Social Services Division, Department of Health and Social Services				
					Occupational Health and Safety Commission			Primary Care, DEW			Rukon Women's Directorate			
Regional level	Health Authorities	N/A	Regional Health Authorities, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority, First Nations Inuit Health Branch	Regional Health Authorities	Public health units	Regional public health directors	Regional Health Authorities	Nova Scotia Health Authority	N/A	8 Regional Integrated Health Authorities	N/A	Health and Social Services Authorities	N/A	N/A

# So what about these scenarios?

- A train (with oil cars and chemical cars) derails. What are the roles for public health services locally/regionally, provincially, and federally?
- A community wants a supervised drug consumption facility. What are the roles for public health services locally/regionally, provincially, and federally?
- There is an outbreak of an as yet undiagnosed but highly fatal respiratory disease in the province's largest teaching hospital. What are the roles for public health services locally/regionally, provincially, and federally?

**Thank You!**