



PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY *of* CANADA
AGENCE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE *du* CANADA



Public Health
Agency of Canada

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Canada 

WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health

Canada's Participation and Response

Presentation
May 23, 2006
Geneva

Purpose

- Summarize Canada's involvement with and support to the Commission
- Outline initiatives in Canada that build on the work of the Commission

Importance of the Commission

- Global need for visible leadership – profile the real causes of health disparities, inequalities.
- Requirements for synthesized evidence on effective/ promising policies, strategies.
- Benefit of sharing international experiences in how to strengthen commitment.
- Need for innovative thinking and practical ways to overcome barriers.

Canada's Support to the Commission

1. Canadian Commissioners (2)

- funding assistance to meetings
- analytical support

2. Knowledge Networks

- Funding assistance to:
 - Early Childhood Development and Education**
 - Health Systems**
 - Globalization and Health**
- Canadian participation on other Knowledge Networks

Canada's Support to the Commission

3. Country Action Partnership

- Canadian Case Study
- Models and Processes – Lessons Learned from Canada
- Potential bilateral partnership(s)

4. Potential Commission Meeting in Canada

- June, 2007
- Investigating possible financial assistance

Canadian Initiatives on the Social Determinants

- WHO Commission serving as a catalyst in Canada
 - renewed attention and dialogue on disparities reduction
- Increased engagement of government and non-government stakeholders
- Coordinated planning underway
 - recognized need for coherent, intersectoral approach

Canadian Initiatives on the Social Determinants

Research/ Knowledge Development

- increased funding to policy research and analysis
 - new studies and reports
- initiatives to engage researchers and policy-makers

Leadership and Infrastructure

- Canadian Reference Group on SDOH
- Public Health Network – Expert Group on Population Health Promotion

Initiatives – Under Development / Consideration

- Inter-sectoral Action – Best Practices Review
- Building the Case – Economic Arguments
- Strategies for Engaging the Public
- Development of Indicators on Disparities/ Inequalities
- Mechanisms for whole-of-government approach

Conclusion

- Greatest health gains by addressing the “causes of the causes”
- Syntheses of knowledge to inform policy is fundamental
- Innovative approaches and practical tools critical for action
- The Commission is focused on these needs

How can you engage and benefit from the Commission’s work?