



Collaborative influence-in-action

Case story: Knowledge translation in public health medicine

NCCs SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIANS AND RESIDENTS

The National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (NCCs) are making a major contribution to the development of Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and other public health physician specialists. They are partnering with the Public Health Physicians of Canada (PHPC) to provide an annual series of interactive training webinars that offer free, customized professional development on priority population topics that address knowledge gaps, and build capacity for core MOH competencies.

The *Knowledge translation in public health medicine webinar series* was created in response to a need identified by residents in Public Health Preventive Medicine who wanted to meet regularly, share knowledge and expertise, and learn about latest research evidence and knowledge translation tools that could support their practice. What started as a series for these residents, has now expanded to include a broader public health physician audience.

Since 2012, all the NCCs have hosted annual webinars for public health residents and physicians. Here are some examples.

- How can I influence policy-making?
- Evidence-informed decision-making from a health equity perspective.
- Wicked problems in environmental health
- Cultural safety for Indigenous people.
- Emerging respiratory infections.
- Where are the resources to “move upstream” in public health work?



Webinars are designed to meet learning needs and align with MOH competencies

This project engages the PHPC and all six NCCs, which each host a session every year. Webinars are delivered collaboratively by a public health expert and a public health physician with practical experience on the topic. The series is coordinated by the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. A joint PHPC/NCC scientific planning committee supervises the learning content: it assesses annual learning needs for public health physicians, and the NCCs meet these needs with the webinars. The committee ensures that these webinars have impact by identifying learning needs, and designing content to match MOH competency requirement.

Developing critical skills for future practice

Participation in the webinar series is growing steadily. Its accreditation adds incentive to attend. Learners report that the customized content is relevant to their public health practice, which requires them to respond to potential threats, chronic disease and injury, infectious diseases and health disparities. By supporting physicians to acquire and improve the knowledge and skills required to perform the duties of a MOH, the NCCs are helping to build the capacity of the public health physician workforce, laying the foundation for an emerging community of practice.

Who attends the webinars?

- Public health physicians, including Medical Officers of Health
- Future public health physicians
- Infectious disease specialists
- Family physicians
- Other health professionals (non-physicians)



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Strengthening public health across Canada: The influence of the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health is available in its entirety in electronic format (PDF) at www.nccph.ca.

La version française est également disponible au www.ccnsp.ca sous le titre *Appuyer la santé publique partout au Canada – l'influence des Centres de collaboration nationale en santé publique*.

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