



## CANADIAN NETWORK FOR HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES (CNHiAP)

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT TIMELINE

The purpose of this document is to provide members with a brief overview of the context and development of the Canadian Network for Health in All Policies (CNHiAP), as well as of the timeline of the different stages that led to the inaugural meeting in September 2023.

#### BACKGROUND

In October 2019, the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP) hosted a [pan-Canadian meeting on Health in All Policies \(HiAP\)](#) in partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Québec's ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS). The meeting brought together a group of actors from different sectors interested in discussing the adoption and implementation of a HiAP approach in the Canadian context. This meeting was a side event of the Second Meeting of the [Global Network for Health in All Policies \(GNHiAP\)](#), hosted by the MSSS, held from October 7 to 9, 2019.

The conclusion of the Canadian meeting was a consensus in support of the relevance of the HiAP approach to improving population health and health equity in Canada, and an expression of interest on the part of attendees in continuing to share knowledge and experience on the subject. With this goal in mind, participants identified the three following areas of action:

- Build the evidence base to support capacity building and implementation;
- Lay the groundwork for a common understanding of HiAP across sectors;
- Launch an intersectoral HiAP network for Canada.

The report on the meeting is available on the NCCHPP's HiAP page in [English](#) and in [French](#).

Building on the recommendations from this meeting and in response to the third area of action, the NCCHPP, with PHAC's support, initiated the CNHiAP project.

#### LAUNCH OF A CANADIAN NETWORK FOR HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES (CNHiAP)

The project of launching a HiAP network for Canada was conceived of and planned to be developed as a series of steps, all outlined below.

##### I. Network analysis and options for the CNHiAP (2021)

The first step in this work was to explore the operating conditions of similar networks in Canada and internationally to help map out possible options for the CNHiAP. This work identified opportunities and challenges, proposed options for the network, and provided a set of questions to guide discussions on its development. During this step, we identified six key categories to consider: focus (goal and objectives); activities; scope; membership; structure and governance; funding. These categories guided the approach to the second step: the consultations with key actors aimed at learning more about the needs of potential network members and best practices in terms of network management.

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## **II. Consultation with key actors involved in HiAP (2021-2022)**

As a second step, the NCCHPP conducted interviews with 24 key actors involved in knowledge exchange for HiAP in Canada and internationally. Consultations were carried out with a group of actors who have expertise related to HiAP or intersectoral work, and who could bring different perspectives to the project. More specifically, the objective of the consultation was to increase our understanding of the following dimensions:

1. Added value and utility of a CNHiAP.
2. Potential objectives, scope and activities for the CNHiAP.
3. Promising practices in terms of HiAP knowledge exchange and capacity building.
4. Promising practices in terms of network management and engagement with members.
5. Potential members' contributions to the CNHiAP.

The report with the main findings is available on the NCCHPP's HiAP page in [English](#) and in [French](#).

Based on the data gathered through this consultation, the Centre developed a proposal for the key elements to consider when developing the foundations of the network. This proposal formed the core of the Advisory Committee's work plan.

## **III. Establishment of the foundations of a CNHiAP (September to December 2022)**

Following from and building on step II, the NCCHPP convened an [Advisory Committee](#) to inform the development of the foundational documents of the CNHiAP through a series of virtual meetings. The Advisory Committee's role was to support and advise the Centre on developing a mandate for the network, as well as on other related network matters.

The Advisory Committee worked from September to November 2022 on preparations for the Network's launch in December 2022.

## **IV. Launch of the CNHiAP (December 2022)**

The launch of the Network was done in December 2022 through the NCCHPP's newsletter. The launch included a [webpage](#) with basic information from the foundational documents and relevant information for partners.

## **V. Secretariat work and Network set-up activities (January to March 2023)**

Starting in January 2023, the NCCHPP, as host of the Network, started its secretariat work. This first stage focused on setting up the Network: developing the terms of reference and setting up the governance structure suggested by the Advisory Committee; identifying potential Steering Committee members and developing a preliminary work plan based on the mandate.

## **VI. Recruitment and beginning of work by the Steering Committee (April to June 2023)**

As part of the governance structure recommended by the Advisory Committee, a [Steering Committee](#) was set up to provide strategic direction, oversight and support to the development and activities of the CNHiAP. The Committee met from May to June to finalize the Network set-up, including confirmation and approval

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of the terms of reference of governance roles, the strategy for membership recruitment and the first preliminary work plan. As part of the process of setting up the governance structure, the nomination and appointment of the Network Co-Chair took place at the end of June. The Committee also worked on the preliminary agenda for the meeting in September.

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## **VII. Core membership recruitment and preparation of the first meeting (June to August 2023)**

As stated in the mandate, the first cohort of members of the network is a limited group of public health actors, recruited by invitation only. Recruitment of the first group of members took place from the end of June until mid-August.

Simultaneously, the Secretariat, with the support of the Steering Committee, worked on developing the agenda for September and extending all the necessary invitations to members and partners.

### **VII. First Network meeting (September 19-20, 2023)**

The first Network meeting marked the beginning of the Network's work and brought together its first members to share and learn from their experiences on implementing Health in All Policies (HiAP) approaches in different Canadian settings, and to explore opportunities and mechanisms for collaboration among members. During the meeting, members discussed the proposed work plan for the first years of the Network to reaffirm work priorities, were consulted on how they wish to engage and identified the best mechanisms to remain connected to work collectively towards the set objectives.

The meeting agenda and the PowerPoint presentations of the first meeting can be found in the Network's [activities page](#).

## **HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES AT THE NCCHPP**

This project is part of a series of works on Health in All Policies and related tools/approaches developed by the NCCHPP in the past few years. All the associated resources such as publications, presentations and webinars, are accessible through our [HiAP page](#).

Since 2020, the NCCHPP has also served as host of the Secretariat of the [Global Network for Health in All Policies \(GNHiAP\)](#). The Secretariat's webpage as well as some of its resources are also accessible through our HiAP page.

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