

## Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition Fact Sheet

The Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition (CCYHC) is a collaboration of six major national organizational and program members working together with a common vision to advance the cause of child and youth health in Canada.

Established in 2004, the current membership of the CCYHC includes the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC), the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP), the Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR), the Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC), the Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC), and the Maternal, Infant, Child & Youth Research Network (MICYRN).

The Coalition engages a broad range of constituents and stakeholders in the area of child and youth health and provides a powerful framework for stimulating new knowledge development and promoting the uptake and application of knowledge to practice and policy. It also serves to support training and education initiatives and to strengthen national advocacy towards improving the health and health care of Canada's youngest citizens.

### The Coalition has established the following six overall goals to guide its work:

- Ensure rapid and efficient development of new knowledge through research in areas of national importance to the health and well-being of children and youth;
- Facilitate and support the application of evidence-based practice and policy;
- Stimulate the development and evaluation of models of practice, quality care and safety, supporting efficient, effective, and accessible systems of child and youth health care;
- Develop and sustain excellence in transdisciplinary child and youth health education, research and training;
- Advocate on national child and youth health, healthcare and policy issues that will benefit from the collective expertise and influence of the Coalition; and
- Actively seek out new members to strengthen the Coalition's capacity to achieve its goals.

The Coalition firmly believes that working together on jointly established strategic priorities makes it possible to achieve more in identified areas of concern than any one of its member organization can accomplish on its own. Building on the combined strengths of its many partnerships, the CCYHC has made significant progress towards achieving its objectives within the context of several key initiatives and programs. For example:

- **Child and Youth Health Indicators Development Program.** In order to support empirically based policy and decision-making, the CCYHC identified the implementation of a strategy for the development, validation, and uptake of child and youth health indicators as one of its first priorities. It is widely recognized that the current lack of robust evidence-based indicators and standards severely impedes our ability to determine the current status of health and health care for Canadian children and youth, conduct comparative analyses to assess performance, and establish benchmarks to establish the optimal level of health service delivery. In 2006, in collaboration with the CIHR-Institute of Human Development Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) and 13 other partner organizations, the Coalition launched a Request for Applications (RFA) to validate and/or develop child and youth health indicators. The purpose

of this initiative is to support teams of researchers and decision makers to develop and apply indicators of child and youth health and health care. In partnership with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA), the CCYHC will also work to promote the uptake of validated child and youth health indicators by incorporating these into CCHSA's accreditation process.

- **Maternal, Infant, Child, and Youth Research Network (MICYRN).** In 2006, the CCYHC identified a national clinical research network as a top priority and established the Maternal, Infant, Child, and Youth Research Network (MICYRN). MICYRN is a multi-disciplinary initiative to support world-class clinical research nationwide. It is believed that the synergistic strength gained from a formal collaborative network of leading researchers and integrated infrastructure will spur tremendous advances unattainable by individual groups. MICYRN's primary objectives are to build innovative platforms to address gaps in the clinical research environment through the establishment of core programs in research partnerships, training, knowledge translation, research methods, research ethics and regulatory affairs, and funding partnerships. This network also sets out to establish integrated access to innovative tools in data management, genomics, and biobanking. MICYRN has the capacity to improve the health of virtually every mother and child in the country through creating an environment of innovation, research efficiency and effective application of new discoveries to policy and practice.
- **National Paediatric Surgical Wait Times Strategy.** In 2005, Dr. Brian Postl, Federal Adviser on Wait Times to the Prime Minister, approached the CCYHC to lead an initiative to develop recommendations for a national paediatric surgical wait times strategy. In 2006, the Coalition, in collaboration with the Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada, hosted the National Workshop on Paediatric Surgical Wait Times to develop these recommendations. On January 11th, 2007 Prime Minister Harper announced \$2.6M in support of a National Paediatric Wait Time Guarantee Pilot Project to identify children waiting longer than the acceptable time for surgery - a very important first step in gaining public attention to the needs of children and youth waiting for surgery. Building on this targeted framework, the CCYHC will endeavour to apply the surgical wait times strategy to a broader set of wait time issues in other high priority areas where children and youth wait for essential health care services.
- **Health Human Resource Strategy.** The development of a Health Human Resource (HHR) Strategy has been identified by the Coalition as another critical priority in the area of child and youth health and one where the combined efforts and expertise of the individual members could have significant influence. CCYHC continues to explore HHR resource issues across interdisciplinary health professions and is committed to the promotion of sustained excellence in education and training to ensure a workforce prepared to meet the health needs of children and youth across the spectrum of promotion, prevention and care.

In addition to the identification and development of specific national priorities and strategies, the Coalition has also worked in an advocacy role to provide support and feedback to several child and youth related initiatives on a national level:

- **“Healthy Children and Youth” – Federal Government Consultation.** In June 2007, in response to an invitation from Dr. Khristinn Kellie Leitch, Federal Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth, the CCYHC surveyed its members and submitted a comprehensive report as part of a Federal government consultation to identify the pressing health issues facing children and youth, gaps in programming and services, and solutions which might serve to address these gaps. The recommendations provided by the Coalition were the result of broad national

stakeholder consultation and represent viable and impact-oriented solutions to advance the health of Canada's children and youth.

- **“Racing for Kids’ Health” – Establishing Priorities in Canadian Child & Youth Health Research.** In early 2007, in collaboration with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (CIHR – IHDCYH) and the SickKids Foundation, the Coalition developed a brochure designed to highlight current priority areas in Canadian child and youth health research. The document provides salient facts related to child and youth health in Canada, lists key gaps in our knowledge that future research should attempt to fill, and suggests how the new knowledge can be applied to improve the health and health care of Canada's children and youth.
- **Canada's Child & Youth Health Charter.** As one of many important stakeholders, the Coalition has been working (since April 2007) in consultation with the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Paediatric Society, and The College of Family Physicians of Canada to finalize a Child and Youth Health Charter and to move forward a child-health declaration that defines child and youth health as key national priorities.

The Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition is a collaborative and consensus-driven organization representing the interests of the entire child and youth health care community. The activities of the Coalition thus far have demonstrated what can be accomplished on a national level by willing and passionate individuals and organizations. The CCYHC will capitalize on this capacity, enthusiasm, and momentum as it continues to develop and expand its membership and scope of activity in the coming years.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What is the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition (CCYHC)?

A. The Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition (CCYHC) is a collaboration of six major national institutional and program members working together with a common vision to advance the cause of child and youth health in Canada: the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC), the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP), the Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR), the Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC), the Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC), and the Maternal, Infant, Child & Youth Research Network (MICYRN). While each organization holds distinct mandates, the Coalition members share many common objectives.

The Coalition brings together a broad range of constituents and stakeholders engaged across the spectrum of new knowledge development through research, dissemination, translation and application of knowledge to practice, and support for the development of the professionals required to achieve these goals.

The Coalition has established the following six overall goals to guide its work:

- Ensure rapid and efficient development of new knowledge through research in areas of national importance to the health and well-being of children and youth;
- Facilitate and support the application of evidence-based practice and policy;
- Stimulate the development and evaluation of models of practice, quality care and safety, supporting efficient, effective, and accessible systems of child and youth health care;
- Develop and sustain excellence in transdisciplinary child and youth health education, research and training;
- Advocate on national child and youth health, healthcare and policy issues that will benefit from the collective expertise and influence of the Coalition; and
- Actively seek out new members to strengthen the Coalition's capacity to achieve its goals.

### Q. Why did we create the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition?

A. The Coalition firmly believes that working together on jointly established strategic priorities makes it possible to achieve more in identified areas of concern than any one of its member organizations can accomplish independently. Building on the combined strengths of its many partnerships, the CCYHC provides a powerful framework for stimulating new knowledge development, promoting the application of this knowledge to training, education and practice, and strengthening national advocacy to improve the health and health care of Canada's young population.

### Q. What organizations formed the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition?

A. Five national organizations came together to form the Coalition: the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC), the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP), the Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR), the Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC), and the Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC).

CAPHC – Established in 2001 through a transformative process of organizational renewal of the Canadian Association of Paediatric Hospitals which occurred in response to member needs arising from emerging health care challenges and the shifting landscape of child and youth health service delivery in Canada - child healthcare organizations were undergoing fundamental structural changes. Today, CAPHC is a 42 member organization representing multidisciplinary health professionals providing health services for children, youth and their families within quaternary and tertiary health centres, community health centres, rehabilitation centres, and home care provider agencies nationwide. CAPHC is committed to promoting, facilitating, and advocating for national health delivery guidelines supported by evidence. All Canadian children's hospitals and their respective Foundations are members of CAPHC, thereby providing linkages to clinical care, education and research. A complete list of member organizations can be found on the CAPHC website. CAPHC's mandate is to effect system-wide change in the delivery of health services to children and youth across Canada. CAPHC focuses on initiatives that have national and broad relevance and which are practical and actionable at the point of service delivery. For further information about CAPHC, visit <http://www.caphc.org>.

CCHCSP – A program providing support for highly qualified child health clinician candidates to develop the requisite knowledge and skills for a career as an independent scientist in child health research. The CCHCSP is the first national network of 17 Canadian Child and Youth Health Research Centres dedicated to training the next generation of clinician-scientists. Research training is supervised by a research mentor and advisory committee and structured to facilitate excellence in research with an interdisciplinary focus. CCHCSP provides the opportunity for education and collaborative experiences with institutions and researchers across Canada. For further information about the CCHCSP, visit <http://www.cchcsp.ca/>.

CCCHR – representing Canadian academic health science centres across Canada with a mandate to ensure that all children and youth enjoy the benefits of improved health through access to, and application of, research findings. Key objectives of the CCCHR are to: 1) foster effective networking related to child and youth health research, education and training; 2) provide a Canadian window for international scientific collaboration; and 3) seek synergies that will enhance the competitiveness of members for research funding.

PCC – Founded in 1960 as the Assembly of Canadian University Paediatric Department Heads, the Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC) represent all university affiliated teaching hospitals in Canada. PCC's mission is to provide national leadership in paediatric research and education to promote the health and health care of children and youth. The goals and objectives of PCC include: 1) Enhancing national and international advocacy for paediatric education and research to improve the health of infants, children and youth; 2) Enhancing the development of high quality, high impact paediatric oriented research that spans the continuum from prevention to promotion of paediatric health; 3) Promoting and enhancing the role of leaders in paediatric education at the undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education levels; 4) Promoting and assisting in the development of effective human resource planning for academic pediatrics and child and youth health care delivery; and 5) Promoting child and youth access to coordinated health services in the best possible environment within academic health science centres and the communities they serve. For further information about PCC, visit <http://www.paediatricchairs.ca>.

PSCC – representing Canadian academic health institutions where pediatric surgical services are offered to children and their families. The PSCC's goal is to provide policy makers, hospital administrators, regional health authorities, universities, government and the public with the most accurate information about the state of pediatric surgical care and access to services in Canada. In this way, informed and responsible decisions can be made regarding the provision, allocation, and distribution of precious health care resources.

## Q. What is the vision of the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition?

A. Members of the CCYHC view the establishment of a national Coalition as providing an opportunity to advance the health and health care of Canada's children and youth through the creation of new knowledge and its transfer to practice, including integration of evidence-based health policies.

## Q. What have these organizations already accomplished together?

A. The organizations have collaborated on multiple quality initiatives, including:

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## Q. How will the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition be measured?

A. The Coalition will conduct an annual evaluation of its accomplishments based on the stated goals and objectives for each year. The Coalition will hold itself accountable for measurably improving the health of children.