



Canadian Child & Youth
HEALTH COALITION

Fact Sheet

www.ccyhc.org

About CCYHC

There is strength in numbers. Eleven national organizations have come together under the umbrella of the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition (CCYHC) with a common **vision to advance the cause of child and youth health and health care in Canada.**

- Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC)
- Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP)
- Canadian Family Advisory Network (CFAN)
- Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)
- Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR)
- Maternal, Infant, Child, & Youth Research Network (MICYRN)
- National Infant, Child, & Youth Mental Health Consortium (The Consortium)
- Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC)
- Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC)
- Safe Kids Canada
- Sandbox Project / Kids Health Foundation

Established in 2004, the Coalition links 17 participating academic health centres across the country, and unites a broad range of experts and stakeholders across the continuum of child and youth health including all academic child health research institutes; a national clinical research infrastructure network; a national clinician scientist training program; all departments of paediatrics; all paediatric surgical departments; the national association of paediatricians; all children's hospitals; the majority of child and youth rehabilitation centres; many community and regional hospitals that provide healthcare services to infants, children, and youth; over 30 child and youth focused mental health organizations; a leading national child and youth injury prevention organization; and 15 family advisory groups.

The CCYHC is collaborative and consensus-driven. While each of the Coalition members holds distinct mandates, they share many common goals and objectives. The collective **mandate** of CCYHC is to advocate on national child and youth health, healthcare and policy issues and decisions that will benefit from the collective expertise and influence of the Coalition members. By working together as a national collaborative, CCYHC has an unparalleled capacity to encourage the development and evaluation of models of quality care, promote excellence and innovation in the education and training of child and youth health professionals, stimulate and promote the development of new knowledge, and promote the uptake and implementation of evidence-based practice and policy that can lead to improvement in child and youth health outcomes.

Programs & Initiatives

The Coalition's multi-disciplinary partnership means it can look at the big picture when it comes to child and youth health. Indeed, leveraging the broad expertise of its membership, the Coalition has implemented several national initiatives and programs including:

- **Child and Youth Health Indicators Development Program.** This Coalition program aims to help researchers and decision makers develop and apply meaningful indicators of child and youth health and health care to ensure that decisions are evidence-based and reflect real needs. 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 2009, the Coalition signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH) to participate in the development of a chapter centered on indicators related to children and youth in the health care system as part of the next edition of the *The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile*. In September 2010, CIHR awarded the Coalition, CICH, and Drs. Astrid Guttmann, Marni Brownell, Melanie Barwick, and Eyal Cohen, funding in support of a joint application entitled *The Medical Home of Children and Youth in Canada*. Through a process of engaging researchers, knowledge users, and provincial and national policy decision-makers across Canada, this project will prioritize, synthesize, and disseminate information related to the medical home and coordination of care for children and youth with complex chronic conditions to support improved cross-jurisdictional knowledge-sharing and decision-making. The work of this project will comprise a chapter within the next edition of the CICH Profile.

- **Canadian Paediatric Surgical Wait Times Strategy.** The Canadian Paediatric Surgical Wait Times Project builds on an initiative, led by the CCYHC, to develop recommendations for a national strategy on this issue. The CPSWT Project was announced in January 2007 by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to measure surgical wait times for children and youth in six targeted areas. Based on its initial achievements, the project gained further funding from Health Canada until March 2010 to expand its data collection to all paediatric surgical subspecialties, include selected community hospitals, and continue to address wait times for children and youth. The Coalition will seek to apply the surgical wait times strategy to a broader set of wait-time issues in the area of child and youth mental health
- **Child & Youth Mental Health Access and Wait Times.** Following on the successes of the *Canadian Paediatric Surgical Wait Times Project*, the Coalition has explored how this work could be leveraged to develop wait times strategies in other priority areas. Over the last months, The Consortium has worked with CAPHC and the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health to develop a mental health access and wait times background paper for the CIHR – Institute of Human Development Child & Youth Health (IHDCYH). This document serves as a context / reference document for two funding opportunities in the area of mental health services for children and youth - *Knowledge Synthesis and Partnership for Health System Improvement (PHSI) grants* – launched in June 2011. The Consortium has been closely involved in all aspects of the development of these calls and plans to maximize participation of Consortium members and partners in these opportunities – with strong support from the Coalition. As a focused national child and youth mental health access and wait times strategy is developed, the Coalition will play a critical role in facilitating the translation of information and lessons-learned from the CPSWT Project for application within this new context
- **Maternal, Infant, Child, and Youth Research Network (MICYRN).** In 2006, CCYHC identified a national clinical research network as a top priority and established the Maternal, Infant, Child, and Youth Research Network. MICYRN is a multi-disciplinary initiative to support world-class clinical research. It aims to address gaps in the clinical research environment and build Canada's maternal, infant and child health researchers

into a single community dedicated to improving the health of mothers and children in Canada. Research partners consist of established and emerging clinical teams, research networks and groups committed to integrating resources to maximize returns. MICYRN's core objectives are to build innovative platforms to address gaps in the clinical research environment. For more information about MICYRN, please visit www.micyrn.ca

- **Health Human Resources.** Over the last two years, the *CCYHC Health Human Resources Working Group* has worked to review the state of health human resources in the child and youth sector and to identify opportunities and challenges in this area. The Coalition is now focusing specifically on the development of a pilot project emphasizing the management of physician health human resources in paediatric academic centres and their communities. The primary goal of this work will be to link the academic health centres paediatric training programs with the needs of Canada's children and youth.

Clinician-scientist training has long been considered a priority focus for Coalition action - specifically, examination of the issue of job creation and support for non-MD clinician-scientists within academic health science centres. In 2010, CCYHC, in partnership with The Hospital for Sick Children, held a day-long national symposium entitled "*Health Clinician-Scientists in Academic Health Science Centres: Protecting an Endangered Species*" on November 27, 2010. This event was organized with grant support from The Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). A full event report is now available at: <http://www.ccyhc.org/news.html>.

Advocacy

CCYHC is passionate about child and youth health. Thus, our work also has an advocacy dimension, providing support and valuable feedback on policy issues that we believe stand to benefit from the Coalition's expertise and influence. Examples of our advocacy work include:

- **The Child & Family in the Healthcare System.** The Coalition has decided to take a fresh look at how children and their families experience and are dealt with in today's health care system. With the Canadian Family Advisory Network (CFAN) centrally engaged in this initiative, CCYHC aims to share best practice and develop a common vision of how this interaction should occur. The results of recent work focused on the topic of parental presence at surgical induction and recovery will soon be available.
- **Child Rights Education for Health Professionals (Boulton Initiative).** This project seeks to provide a strategy for educating health professionals about the practical application of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The Coalition is participating in the development of this initiative towards achieving a developmental child rights approach in all child/youth health programs and services, an approach that reflects a holistic and inclusive understanding of health and the realities of associated challenges and opportunities.
- **"Reaching for the Top: A Report by the Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth" (the Leitch Report).** In response to an invitation from Dr. K. Kellie Leitch, then Federal Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth, the CCYHC conducted a broad national stakeholder consultation across its membership and submitted a comprehensive report outlining pressing health issues facing children and youth, gaps in programming and services, and solutions that might address these gaps.

- **“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.

- **Samples of recent CCYHC Letters of Support**

2010 G8 University Summit The third G8 University Summit was held in Vancouver on May 20-22, 2010. In anticipation of this event, the Coalition wrote to all participating Canadian University Presidents to express support for the 2010 Summit theme -“Universities and Communities: transition to a sustainable future”. As a collaborative active in child health research, health care delivery, knowledge translation, and training, the Coalition firmly believes there is a vital need for a focus on the identification and implementation of strategies to promote sustainable and responsible development in the areas of health and higher education.

Children’s Commissioner – Bill C-418 In early January 2011, CCYHC prepared and circulated a letter in support of Private Member’s Bill C-418. Tabled by Member of Parliament Mr. Marc Garneau, this bill calls for the establishment of a federal Children’s Commissioner in Canada. The letter of support was disseminated to a broad non-partisan government audience comprising the major party leaders, provincial premiers and ministers of health, as well as several other provincial child welfare ministries and offices across the country. CCYHC is strongly committed to supporting the establishment of this office and will champion this proposal in upcoming meetings with federal and provincial leaders.

Mind the Gap: therapeutic products for children and youth. On March 18, 2011, CCYHC submitted a letter to the Review Committee of the Council of Canadian Academies conveying strong support of the *Mind the Gap* proposal submitted by Health Canada. It is believed that the envisioned report on Canada’s capacity for science and innovation in support of optimal treatment of children and youth would be both important and timely. Canada has outstanding scientific resources that, in some areas, are world-leading and the importance of these assets to improved health outcomes and well-being for Canadian children and youth cannot be overemphasized. It is expected that this report will identify and highlight innovative methods and therapies and clarify Canada’s potential role in the broader world picture.

Contact CCYHC

For further information about the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition (CCYHC), please visit www.ccyhc.org or contact:

Melissa Clulow
CCYHC National Coordinator
Phone: 514-656-1268 | **E-mail:** mclulow@cheo.on.ca