# Record of Discussion

**School Health Coordinators’ Committee Meeting**

**May 12 2020**

**Co-Chairs: Sterling Carruthers (PE), Pat Martz (AB)   
Participants:**

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| **Jurisdiction** | **Representative** |
| BC | Cassandra Sullivan |
| AB | Pat Martz |
| SK | Anna Grumbly Helen Flengeris Jonathon Renwick |
| MB | Jennifer Wood |
| ON | Jennifer Munro-Galloway Ivia Seat  Stephanie Prosperi |
| NB | Sylvia Reentovich |
| PE | Sterling Carruthers |
| NS |  |
| NL | Peggy Orbasli |
| NU |  |
| NT | Elaine Stewart |
| YT | Ian Parker Brenda Jenner |
| PHAC | Suzy Wong |
| **Secretariat** |  |
| Katherine Kelly | Executive Director |
| Susan Hornby | Senior Advisor |
| Craig Watson | Research Analyst |

Record of Discussion

1. Welcome and Roll Call  
   The co-Chairs welcomed all to the call.
2. Review and Approval of Agenda  
   The agenda was approved as written.
3. Approval of Record of Discussion from the April 14th 2019 teleconference  
   The Record of Discussion from the April 14th teleconference was approved.
4. Mandate Renewal: Update  
   Following the April SHCC teleconference, Katherine sent a follow-up/reminder email to the jurisdictions that had not sent in approvals for the mandate renewal. To date, Katherine has received go-ahead responses from 6 jurisdictions on the Health side, and 7 on the Education side. Given the complexities of the Covid-19 pandemic, the mandate renewal sign-off process has been a challenge.

Katherine noted that this would be her last SHCC teleconference, as Friday, May 15th will be her last day with the JCSH. Prior to her departure, Katherine will meet with John Cummings (Chair - JCSH Management Committee) to review end-of-fiscal details, in an effort to determine where the current JCSH surplus stands. Following Katherine’s departure, Susan will be the lead contact for the JCSH.

1. Draft JCSH Work Plan 2020-2021 and Executive Summary  
   Sterling and Susan updated the group on the work done to date on the draft JCSH annual work plan for 2020-2021. A draft version of the latest work plan has been sent out to the SHCC for review and feedback, along with an Executive Summary.  
    *Discussion*:   
   As a next step, it would be helpful to develop a companion document that supports and accompanies the work plan - one that is perhaps more actions-focused, and helps to flesh out and clarify the work plan further. This document could act as a companion piece to the Executive Summary. As well, another key next step for the work plan will be to focus on timelines for the work of the JCSH.
2. Emerging Trends and Opportunities / SHCC Check-in  
     
   BC  
   School meal/food programs have been a focus, as the province has been mandated to continue to offer these programs to vulnerable students and families during this Covid-19 period. This will be the first time that BC’s school food programs will be offered throughout the summer months.  
     
   *Discussion:*YK is facing similar challenges, including coordination among the different groups working with food security issues. The Department of Education has just released guidelines outlining the circumstances under which schools can distribute food.

Action: Ian will share food distribution guidelines.

PE is using emergency food ports to assist students and families that had been relying on breakfast and lunch programs. In conjunction with PEI’s Department of Social Development and Housing, and with guidance and direction from the Chief Public Health Office, a food delivery service has been put in place. Both paid and volunteer chefs are preparing meals, and re-purposed staff from Transportation have been tasked with delivering these meals directly to families (one meal per child, for every day of the week).

MB’s Department of Education has issued a Request For Proposals, in search of a company that could coordinate a nutrition supports program at the provincial level. Civil servants and call centers have been re-tasked to support this program.

In AB, all surplus food from famers that had initially been going to restaurants is now being redirected to food banks for redistribution. Several groups (Department of Agriculture, Children’s Services, etc) are facilitating the programming for this redistribution of food.

General: The Federal Provincial Territorial Group on Nutrition is compiling food distribution work being done throughout the country. Provincial nutritionists are working in each province/territory on this; also Nutrition North. A template has been developed by the FPTGN.

**Action**: Pat will send FPTGN template to the Secretariat.

AB  
AB schools will be closed for the remainder of the year, with return-to-school details and protocol currently being addressed for three options: 1) a fall 2020 return for all students, 2) K-5 students return in the fall, with all other students continuing in an online environment, and 3) all students would return later, possibly January 2021. The current focus is how best to support students and teachers.  
  
SK  
SK schools will be closed for the remainder of the year, with a return in September 2020 at the earliest. The Ministry of Education recently met with the Board of Directors and coordinators from all school divisions to discuss return-to-school protocol, and resources for trauma- informed teaching, self-regulation strategies, and anxiety management. A PowerPoint deck to address these areas for staff is in development; any information on these areas is welcome.

*Discussion:*

A recent request by Pat for responses on trauma informed practices will be shared with School Health Coordinators when complete. This topic is also on the agenda for the CMEC Assistant Deputy Ministers’ Committee on student and teacher wellness.

MB  
There is no decision on return to school, possibly in the fall. Food security concerns now include household food security as well as supply chain challenges. Several grants for MB’s non-governmental organizations are being cut this year, in an effort to re-direct funds to the frontlines.

ON  
School breakfast/snack and meal programs in the province are funded through and operated by fourteen lead agencies. Each region in the province has an organization responsible for fundraising, coordination with principals and schools, but each looks different in accessing food boxes, grocery gift cards, and other formats. It is not yet known whether these programs will continue past June. Conversations continue on return to school in the province; there is much interest in how this will work in Quebec. From a policy perspective, scoping work is underway on what healthy schools will look like post-Covid from a comprehensive school health perspective. It is helpful to have this focus discussed at the SHCC table, in issues that include physical activity, school food, injury prevention and CSH in general.   
  
NB  
The re-opening of the province is now slowly being phased in. Childcare and early learning facilities will be re-opening on May 19; Education is looking at a September return to school. Nurses with the Healthy Learners in Schools initiative usually are at work applying the CSH approach, but have been working on Covid response. Post-Covid, it will be easier to share their understanding of what this approach in schools looks like.  
  
NL  
Schools in the province will remain closed for the rest of the school year. Online learning is voluntary for those students with internet access; for those not able to access the resources online, teachers have been mailing out work to them. As part of reopening plans, NL is alert level-4 of 5 alert levels; in this phase, child care facilities will open with numerous restrictions and school districts are advising parents to concentrate on promoting social emotional learning, being outdoors. The Department of Education is hopeful that schools will re-open in September, but also looking at a number of options, including digital learning, attending school in shifts. Food security for students and families has been a focus in the province, and some funds have been redirected to community groups that are working to ensure that food is reaching the most vulnerable families.

YT  
Yukon schools have announced they will be closed for the remainder of the school year. Online learning for students continues; however, the delivery is inconsistent, and varies significantly from school to school, and among teachers. Planning has begun to address what return-to-school scenarios might look like. Department messaging to staff and schools has been very much focused on social-emotional learning, and health and wellness for students and families at home.

PE  
In addition to the school food program to support students and families, the re-opening of the province is slowly being phased in. Some students who need additional supports have returned to some schools on a part-time basis. There is no widespread return to school before September.

PHAC

No report.

1. Next Meeting
   * June 9 2020

*All meetings begin at 1:00 Eastern Time.*

1. Adjournment