

**Record of Decision**
**Management Committee WebEx Meeting**
**June 25 2021**

 **Chair: John Cummings (PE)**

 **Participants:**

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| **Jurisdiction** | **Representative** |
| BC | Stephen Smith (Health) |
| AB | Jeff Bath for Cheryl Przybilla (Education) |
| SK | Helen Flengeris for Jillian Code (Health) |
| MB | Glenys MacLeod (Education) |
| ON | Patrick Byam (Education)Adam Ladak / Sana Javed for Ryan Dyck (Health) |
| NB | Jeff Leblanc (Education) |
| NS |  |
| PE | John Cummings (Education) |
| NL | Eldred Barnes (Education)Loyola Power (Health) |
| NU | Charlotte Borg (Education)Jessica Rideout (Health) |
| NT |  |
| YT |  |
| PHAC | Sally Scott (MC) / Deepika Sriram (SHCC) |
| CMEC | Brennen Jenkins |
| SHCC | Sterling Carruthers (PE) / Cassandra Sullivan (BC)  |
| JCSH Task Groups | Cassandra Sullivan (Priorities and Implementation, Substance Use)Peggy Orbasli (Healthy School Planner) |
| Secretariat | Susan Hornby / Craig Watson |



Record of Decision

1. Welcome: Roll Call and Jurisdictional Updates

John welcomed all to the meeting.

● Jurisdictional Updates

BC
Continued collaboration across the Health and Education systems with respect to the COVID-19 response in the school setting is a primary focus for the province. Throughout the pandemic, Public Health has worked closely with Education to develop health and safety guidelines for the K-12 sector. With an anticipated return to school in the fall, the Ministry of Education is developing a recovery plan for school administrators - to clarify expectations, and offer guidance on key topics (such as mental health and well-being). In collaboration with [Sport for Life](https://sportforlife.ca/), work continues on the provincial prototype for physical literacy and physical activity - in an effort to enhance the capacity of BC educators in delivering the physical education curriculum (with an emphasis on the links between physical activity and mental health and well-being). In addition, culturally-distinct approaches for First Nations students and schools are being developed within the prototype. On the health promotion front, strategic planning work continues, to determine what health promotion in schools may look like in the future - with a significant focus on the four components of the Comprehensive School Health approach. A key development of this work has been the introduction of a Community of Practice structure for public sector employees who play a role within health promotion in schools.

AB
The COVID-19 response in the school setting is a front-and-center focus for the province, with school re-entry plans for the fall currently being reviewed. The Ministry of Education has recently announced significant funding to support student learning - with a specific focus on literacy and numeracy. Work continues on the review of the draft K-6 curriculum. Piloting of the curriculum will begin in select schools this fall, 2021, with an anticipated implementation target for fall 2022. One of the key components is the physical education and wellness curriculum, which comes from a strong health promotion / strengths based approach, and supports Comprehensive School Health. Significant work is underway related to supports for Indigenous students.

SK
Research questions are being developed to determine what type of impacts COVID-19 has had on nutrition environments. This fall, the Ministry of Health will engage with health promotion colleagues at the Saskatchewan Health Authority to explore what population health / school health will look like post-Covid.

MB
After a recent education review, the government released its “Better Education Starts Today: Putting Students First” ([BEST](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/better-education-starts-today-report.pdf)) strategy. The strategy was developed in response to the recommendations of the Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education, as well as the learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic. Manitoba Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery is a newly established department that focuses on providing mental health and addictions supports and treatments.

ON
Planning work is underway by the Healthy Populations Unit for both summer camps and the new school year - to review and amend screening, testing, and school / child care guidance documents. There have been ongoing discussions in regards to the resumption of public health programming, and the unintended impacts of the pandemic on children and youth. Work continues on developing an anti-sex trafficking policy framework within the education sector, with the aim to have it released prior to the new school year. Funding has been allocated to school nutrition programs. Additional funding has come from the federal Safe-Return-to-Class funding, to support the increased number of remote learners. In collaboration with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, school nutrition programs are currently being reviewed, in an effort to determine how the programs can be responsive to different learning models, and school needs that currently exist across the province, due to the implications of COVID-19. Work is underway to develop a suite of wellness resources (ie - fact sheets) for parents and families in an effort to address a variety of health topics, such as staying active at home, sedentary behavior, and adequate sleep. With student mental health a key priority, the Ministry is exploring the rollout of [PreVenture](https://www.preventure.ca/) - a mental health and early intervention program for teens. Work continues on cannabis and vaping resource supports. Two projects are underway with Indigenous partners – one with the Ontario Native Counselling Association to develop culturally appropriate resources and training related to recreational cannabis use and vaping, and another with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centers to develop mental health supports for young Indigenous women who have lived experience of violence.

NB
New Brunswick’s Child and Youth Advocate is reviewing programs and services related to suicide prevention and mental health services, with the final report due for release in July. Amendments to New Brunswick’s Education Act are underway with a focus on the shortage of psychologists currently working in the province’s school system, as well as on assessments that teachers with specialized training can do to offset the psychologists’ workloads. An inclusion policy related to mental health that has been in place for several years is under review to determine need for adjustments. Enhancement agreements for programs and services for First Nations students who attend public schools are being renewed. The province’s food security network - “Food for all New Brunswick” - has recently begun work on a needs assessment of current school food programs. Similarly, on the Education front, surveys have been completed with both the Anglophone and Francophone schools sectors, looking at what types of breakfast and lunch programs are being offered in respective schools, in an effort to identify where gaps might exist. It is the hope that a school food program will exist in every school, starting in the 2021-2022 school year.

PE
Current focus remains on the new provincial school food initiative that was launched last year. This initiative provides healthy lunch options for students across all schools in the province. The program is a pay-what-you-can model, in an effort to address food insecurity. The program is currently transitioning from government to a newly formed non-profit group. On the Health front, community wellness grants have been relaunched, with a focus on physical activity, tobacco, healthy eating, responsible alcohol use, and mental health and wellness initiatives. Provincial vaping working groups have just resumed, and work continues on active transportation initiatives. Data collection at the school level continues in the province, in an effort to support and complement HBSC (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children).

NL
A Comprehensive School Health initiative will begin this September in select schools. The initiative will aim to enhance the school health environment, and the health and well-being of students, staff, and community members. Healthy eating and physical activity policies are being updated. Provincial school guidelines have been revised and finalized, with the aim to have them implemented in September in all schools. Professional learning for school food providers and administrators from across the province will be taking place, and it will include a review of the Comprehensive School Health Framework, and how it can be used to support these new guidelines and policies. The Department of Education continues to update its health curriculum, with a specific focus on social-emotional learning (SEL), as well as revising its Safe and Caring Schools policy. Work continues on youth vaping prevention initiatives. Funding is being provided again this year to schools who complete the Healthy School Planner. The funding would be to support recommendations identified through the Planner. School community level data is being reviewed, in an effort to help inform the school development process, identify what data sets are available to support this, and help schools to infuse the Comprehensive School Health framework within their action planning.

NU
A widespread reopening of schools will start on July 1st, with the start being staggered to support communities’ hunting and fishing seasons. In anticipation of the reopening of schools, and in collaboration with the Red Cross, trauma-informed practice will be used to guide work beginning this summer with students and staff to support them in managing the ongoing news regarding finding of children’s graves at former residential schools. The territory has recently moved from a blended (in-person/virtual) to a fully virtual model of specialized service delivery (e.g., occupational therapy, speech language pathology, physiotherapy). A yearly review of these services has been completed, and feedback from schools has been very positive in regards to the virtual model. Next year, education support services will be expanded to include educational psychology assessments. On the Health front, a new health promotion specialist will be starting in July, with the JCSH file being one of their priorities. In addition, in collaboration with the Department of Education, this new specialist will be reinstating the [Inuutsiarniq Reading Series](http://inuuqatigiit.ca/takehome-books/) - a literacy initiative that will deliver key health messages - including tobacco use, substance use, sexual health, and [I Respect Myself](https://www.irespectmyself.ca/en/home). Funding for community wellness plans has been increased, and will be used to support and deliver school food programs. The Department of Health is looking forward to strengthening collaboration with its Education colleagues - with a specific focus on school food programs.

PHAC
Indigenous early learning and child care funding will include funding for the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities Program. In collaboration with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, a national autism strategy is being developed: The validation process will focus on social inclusion, economic inclusion, and evidence-based intervention. A solicitation on Autism Spectrum Disorder has just been completed, with a focus on helping those with autism and their families / caregivers navigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine rollout task force team is currently working on vaccine hesitancy in youth. Work continues on the federal government’s response to the report from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, in the lead up to the reporting process that will begin May 2022. Work has begun on a youth engagement grant program. This program will be accessible to school age youth, and will afford them an opportunity to provide input on key priority issues.

CMEC
The annual summer Ministers and Deputy Ministers’ meetings will be held in early July, with the fall return-to-school preparations a primary focus. In addition, Education Ministers will be discussing how they can better support Indigenous students, while Deputy Ministers will focus on mental health and wellbeing in all students, in the context of the new school year.
2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

1. Review and Approval of Management Committee Draft Record of Decision - April 19 2021

The Record of Decision of the April 19 2021 WebEx meeting was approved as written.

As a follow-up from the April Management Committee meeting, John advised the group that the PHAC Funding Agreement application process has been completed and approved. This serves to provide funding from PHAC for the duration of the JCSH mandate.

As well, as an additional follow-up from the April meeting, John reminded the group that Management Committee members are now invited to all SHCC presentations meetings. These SHCC presentation meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month, with the next meeting scheduled for July.
2. Annual Work Plan 2020-2021: Update from Task Groups
Task group members updated the meeting on the work to date in the various JCSH task groups: the JCSH 2021-2022 Work Plan Development Task Group, the Priorities and Implementation Task Group, the Substance Use Resources Task Group, the Healthy School Planner (HSP) Task Group, the JCSH Evaluation Task Group, and the HBSC (Health Behavior in School-aged Children) Research Advisory Committee.

Updates as follows:

● JCSH 2021-2022 Work Plan Development Task Group

Sally and Peggy advised that the group has done a thorough review of the current 2020-2021 Work Plan - which is a very detailed/in-depth document that matches up JCSH goals and strategies. As a result of this review, the group has started to develop more of a hybrid work plan. The work plan will combine the detailed 2020-2021 Work Plan with the higher level work plan that had been submitted to PHAC as part of the JCSH Grant Agreement, with activities aligned under 3 broad objectives - in an effort to create a document that is more high level/strategic in scope, that can be used more efficiently for briefing up. When the draft document is finalized, it will be forwarded to Management Committee for review and approval.

● Priorities and Implementation Task Group

Cassandra updated the group on the status of the JCSH Priorities and Implementation 2020-2021 Task Group. This group is the oversight body that provides an essential high-level recommendation / oversight management role, providing the rationale for activities for final approval / decisions by Management Committee. Over the past year, the group noted a number of successes in realizing JCSH Work Plan accomplishments. The benefits of this group was in providing timeframes to Work Plan activities, and making recommendations to Management Committee.

● Substance Use Resources Task Group

Cassandra advised that the Request for Proposals to develop multi-media assets (e.g., whiteboard animations, videos) that build on the most current evidence and are intended for 3 audiences (youth, educators, and adult allies) is complete, with 3 proposals being submitted. A sub-group of this task group is currently reviewing the submitted proposals, with a decision coming soon on the successful proponent.

● Healthy School Planner (HSP) Task Group

Peggy advised that a Request for Proposals for Phase 1 of the work on the new Healthy School Planner has been drafted, and is under final review. Phase 1 of the work will focus on developing a Standards and Indicators document - guided by the Standards and Indicators document from the [SHE Network](https://www.schoolsforhealth.org/) (Schools for Health in Europe) - as well as Wise Practices for Comprehensive School Health in Canada - in an effort to help schools assess their respective healthy school environment, and help guide them towards actions and plans that would support school health. When the review and approval process is complete, the RfP will be shared with JCSH members for dissemination.

● JCSH Evaluation Task Group

Stephen advised that this new task group has met once. Primarily, this group will oversee an evaluation approach and framework required for this mandate - one with more of a formative/summative structure, as opposed to the Developmental Evaluation structure used for the last mandate. A logic model is being reviewed, with possible expansion to include strategic priorities.

● HBSC (Health Behavior in School-aged Children) Research Advisory Committee

On behalf of Suzy Wong, Susan advised that the HBSC RAC’s focus is to support the Canadian HBSC Research Team in developing a draft of the 2021-2022 survey round questionnaire. Key priorities for this survey round are positive mental health, vaping, COVID-19, food insecurity, and gender identity. When complete, the draft will be circulated back to the HBSC RAC for review. The contract groups for HBSC and CSTADS have been instructed by their funders to find ways to prioritize potential strategies for coordinating the two surveys - in an effort to reduce survey burden and fatigue in schools.
3. Budget 2021-2022: Update

John reviewed the spreadsheet containing the 2020-2021 reconciliation, as well as the proposed budget for 2021-2022. Of the $ 250,000 that was brought in from the jurisdictions and PHAC at the end of the fiscal year (March, 2021), there were expenditures of $ 197,964.29 - resulting in a surplus of approximately $ 52,000. It is proposed that the $ 52,000 surplus be earmarked for continuation of work on the new Healthy School Planner.

Action Required:

Permission to adopt the current proposed 2021-2022 budget will be delayed, to allow those attending in the place of Management Committee members (who were absent from the meeting) an opportunity to provide a review of the budget to those respective members. It was requested that responses from Management Committee members be received by July 5th, given that some of the funds (from PHAC contributions) have already been earmarked for the current RFP (substance use initiative), that is in the final evaluation and review process. A passive approval approach will be adopted: no response will be taken as approval.
4. Management Committee: Breakout Session

A breakout session was set up, affording the group a forum for discussion on two key areas:

*1) How do you (in your respective role/ministry/jurisdiction) want JCSH to frame post-Covid initiatives and responses?

2) What are some emerging issues you see in your work that JCSH may not have named or sufficiently moved forward?*
Points raised from the group breakout session were as follows:

Q1) How do you (in your role/ministry/jurisdiction) want JCSH to frame post-Covid initiatives and responses?

It is important to respect the JCSH Work Plan and priorities that have been determined for this new mandate.

It will be important to leverage current work (ie - the substance use resource), with Covid-specific responses.

Explore mechanisms we now use to support one another (ie - SHCC presentation meetings, environmental scans), and determine how best we can have smaller discussions / meetings among members, for those interested in particular (or more specific) issues (e.g., school food) - in an effort to share resources, and perhaps reduce the workload in jurisdictions that are exploring similar areas.

There is a very small window to have the various Covid supports / resources completed to assist school communities, given that school administrators would require these supports to be in place by mid-August at the latest. A longitudinal piece would allow the JCSH to move forward on significant priority areas that have been brought forward during the global pandemic.

Key priority issues such as mental health, school food / nutrition, and substance use can be moved forward with changes / modifications, as a result of pandemic activities.

A focus on Structural Determinants of Health could provide a very important lens, and a good intersection with the impacts of Covid, and the distinct needs of Indigenous students.

Key messages and research regarding Comprehensive School Health (CSH) will help to ensure student wellbeing and healthy school environments, as many education systems are focused primarily on learning and academics. There must be a significant focus as well on physical health, positive mental health, substance use and addictions.

These key messages will prove to be important for educators and decision makers.

2) What are some emerging issues you see in your work that JCSH may not have named or sufficiently moved forward?

Regarding physical literacy and activity, it is important to better bridge SPAR ministers with Health and Education, with a focus on the playground, play, socialization, the role of recreation in healing from trauma -and use this lens to help impact other areas, such as healthy eating, concussion, and wellbeing.

Social-emotional learning and wellbeing will be a foundation piece when students return to school. The JCSH is well positioned to spearhead this.

It is important to re-visit the proposed development of an Indigenous Module for the Positive Mental Health Toolkit (PMH).

It is key that the JCSH deepens the work it has done on reconciliation.

It is key that an equity lens is applied to all JCSH work - targeted vs. universal supports for students - woven into all aspects of JCSH work.

It is important that an equity lens is applied to all strategic partnerships of the JCSH, and ensure we are led by groups / stakeholders that can support and lead this work (e.g., Canadian legacy regarding Indigenous students).
5. Final Thoughts / Meeting Wrap-up

John advised the group that Jillian Code (SK) has offered to take on the role of Management Committee co-chair, and thanked outgoing co-chair Steve Machat (NS) for all of his work and support over the past year. The co-chair transition is scheduled to begin this coming September.
6. Next Meeting

The group agreed to a proposed joint Management Committee - SHCC meeting for this coming September, 2021. Meeting date / time TBD.

1. Adjournment