# Record of Discussion

**School Health Coordinators’ Committee Meeting**

**November 10 2020**

**Co-Chairs: Cassandra Sullivan (BC), Sterling Carruthers (PE)**   
**Participants:**

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| **Jurisdiction** | **Representative** |
| BC | Cassandra Sullivan |
| AB | Pat Martz |
| SK | Anna Grumbly  Helen Flengeris   Jonathon Renwick |
| MB | Jennifer Wood |
| ON | Sana Javed  Irene Lai  Adam Ladak |
| NB | Aisha Khedheri  Jeff LeBlanc |
| PE | Sterling Carruthers |
| NS | James Shedden |
| NL | Peggy Orbasli |
| NU | Shara Bernstein |
| NT |  |
| YT | Ian Parker  Brenda Jenner |
| PHAC | Stéphanie Arbez  Suzy Wong |
| **Secretariat** |  |
| Susan Hornby | Senior Advisor |
| Craig Watson | Research Analyst |

Record of Discussion

1. Welcome and Roll Call  
   Cassandra welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Review and Approval of Agenda  
   The agenda was approved as written.
3. Approval of Record of Discussion from the October 13 2020 meeting  
   The Record of Discussion from the October 13 2020 meeting was approved.
4. Mandate Approval Update and Autumn 2020 Work Plan  
     
   ● Mandate Approval  
     
   Signed formal Agreements from several jurisdictions are still outstanding, and work continues to facilitate and secure sign-off from these respective P/Ts.   
     
   ● Autumn 2020 Work Plan  
     
   Susan updated the SHCC on the status of the JCSH Work Plan - more specifically, the progress/direction for the autumn 2020 priorities. The Secretariat has been actively moving forward with advancing action items from the JCSH Work Plan. A suitable date for a joint Management Committee/SHCC meeting is currently being secured, with a draft agenda being developed.  
     
   Travis Saunders, a health researcher at UPEI, is currently working with a research team to develop Education-Related Sedentary Behaviour Recommendations for school-aged children and youth. The purpose of the project is to develop specific recommendations for education-related sedentary behaviours performed both at home and at school. Susan has been asked (along with several other experts from around the globe) to serve on the expert panel that will draft these recommendations. The panel members would be expected to provide feedback on the process, review evidence, contribute to the drafting and editing of Guidelines and related manuscripts, and distribute the Guidelines amongst their professional networks. John Cummings (Chair - JCSH Management Committee) supports JCSH/Susan’s involvement as part of this panel.
5. SHCC Task Groups and Agendas  
     
   ● Task Groups  
     
   It was suggested that forming specific task groups (made up SHCC members with Secretariat) would be extremely beneficial, and key to moving some of the bigger JCSH Work Plan pieces/priorities forward (ie- Autumn 2020 Work Plan Action Priorities Task Group, JCSH Project 2020-2021 Task Group, Healthy School Planner Task Group, etc).

Regarding the Project task group, JCSH has a project budget for this fiscal year of $50,000 - the portion of PHAC’s share of the surplus not allocated for operations. These funds need to be spent by March 31, 2021 so this task group will explore a project that can be well underway/completed in a short period of time for this funding amount.  
  
Action: Secretariat to send out task group options based on current priorities, and have SHCC members sign on to one (or more) of the groups.  
  
● SHCC Meetings / Meeting Agendas  
  
In an effort to ensure that SHCC meetings / meeting agendas are as efficient and valuable as possible for SHCC members, a new month-to-month meeting format was proposed - whereby one monthly meeting would be content heavy, with robust agendas, followed the next month by a presentation-focused meeting, with guests presenting on various / relevant topic areas. The presentation-focused meetings would allow for a wider audience, with SHCC members able to invite key colleagues and stakeholders to participate in these meetings accordingly, and showcase the work of the JCSH.

1. Emerging Trends and Opportunities / SHCC Check-in

PHAC  
In celebration of [National Child Day](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/childhood-adolescence/national-child-day/celebrate-national-child-day-november-20.html), PHAC will be hosting a webinar on Friday, November 20, 2020 - entitled: “Health Inequalities and our Canadian youth: who is vulnerable and how can we close the gaps?” The webinar will use health inequalities findings from the national and international Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey and the Pan-Canadian Health Inequalities Reporting Initiative.  
  
YT  
On the Health front, infographics related to the HBSC data are currently being developed, with plans to have two live / interactive youth “actors” speak to / about the data, while being supported by the infographics behind them. It is the intention to bring this interactive piece back to the schools where the data was collected, as well as use them as an information piece for teachers and adult allies. Work on the SUAP (“Substance Use and Addictions Program”) application continues, and the funding proposal has been submitted to PHAC. The intention is to engage with individuals (specifically in rural / remote communities), to build and share knowledge on effective treatments for substance use among youth. The CSH Framework, Developmental Assets Model, and PHAC’s “Blueprint for Action” will be used as complementary pieces to this - with the long-term goal of introducing the Planet Youth/Icelandic Model.

NU  
The Legislative Assembly is currently sitting, and Bill 25 has just been passed - making amendments to the Education Act. Among the amendments are significant changes to Part 6 of the Act, which covers inclusive education in the territory. More specifically, roles / responsibilities, and the oversight of inclusive education at the school level will move away from the district education authorities, and over to the principals. The territory has just confirmed their first 2 cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.  
  
NL  
Work is currently underway on a youth vaping social media campaign that is scheduled to be launched in January. Several students / youth have been engaged, and will assist with the development of the campaign. Work continues on a Healthy Eating and Physical Activity policy for schools. The Department of Education is updating their “Safe and Caring Schools Policy,” with it now being called the “Safe and Healthy and Inclusive Schools Policy.”  
  
PE  
Current focus remains on the new Provincial School Food Initiative that has just been launched. 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 will transition at the end of this coming school year to a newly formed non-profit group. On the health front, most employees have been redeployed, in an effort to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.  
  
NS  
The Health Promoting Schools team continues to work on school food initiatives, active environments, and equity issues - as well as how best to distribute funds around Health Promoting Schools.  
  
NB  
Through a grant from the CIHR, a School Food Research Conference was hosted at the end of September by Université de Moncton. In conjunction with the [Food for All New Brunswick](https://foodforallnb.ca/) food security network, the Resiliency Planning Team at the Department of Health are currently looking at school food, and food security as it relates to the implications of COVID-19. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick has recently started a school food pilot, with 10 schools participating in the province.   
  
ON  
In August, the province hired 625 school-focused nurses to provide rapid-response support to schools and boards, and facilitate public health measures, including screening, surveillance testing, tracing, and mitigation strategies. The Ministries of Health and Education have jointly established an Education Sector Preparedness and Outbreak Planning table (ESPOP), in an effort to coordinate and monitor outbreak preparedness, planning, and response activities in schools and childcare settings. This table is made up of individuals from the boards of education, public health units, the childcare sector, and those with scientific and technical expertise. In conjunction with Ophea, the Ministry of Education has funded the development of additional concussion safety resources for students and teachers, in connection with Rowan’s Law, and can be found on the Ministry of Education’s virtual learning environment.   
  
MB  
The Department of Education continues to work on a Substance Use Curriculum, to supplement the current Health curriculum. The province has just announced that they will be moving into the “Code Red” phase - meaning all non-essential entities will be in lock down for a minimum of two weeks. Schools and daycares will remain open. The Department of Education has just announced that $ 10 million in funding has been earmarked for an online distance learning center. Additional teachers and EAs will be hired to help deliver the curriculum online.   
  
SK  
The province has a new Minister of Education. Schools have been adapting their schedules accordingly in response to COVID-19 outbreaks, with several schools and classrooms being temporarily closed. As a result, several school divisions have instituted mandatory mask use for Pre-K to Grade 3 students. Mask use has been mandatory since September for Grades 4-12. Provincial exams are no longer mandatory, and will be optional for the 2021 school year for Grade 12 students. On the health front, the fall [CSHC newsletter](https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/5119) has been released, and can also be found on the public side of the JCSH website under the “Latest Additions” section.   
  
AB  
The tri-Ministry collaboration between Health, Education, and Culture, Multiculturalism & Status of Women funded Alberta’s Injury Prevention Centre to renew and revise the [Alberta Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Schools](https://myspheres.ca/). These revised guidelines will be inclusive of concussion guidelines / protocol and include the Safety Guidelines for Secondary Interschool Athletics in Alberta (therefore, an all in one document versus multiple documents).   
  
BC  
Work is currently underway on a new Physical Activity prototype, with the intention that it will replace the old initiative - “Action Schools BC.” Face to face work (ie- training, delivery, workshops, etc) with the prototype had to be rescheduled, given implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the hope that face to face prototyping in northern communities, specifically in Indigenous and First Nations schools, will begin soon. In conjunction with [DASH BC](https://dashbc.ca/), the first phase of a needs assessment project has been completed. The assessment looks at how education partners (specifically teachers) access health promotion resources.

1. Upcoming SHCC WebEx Meetings
   * December 8 2020
   * January 12 2021
   * February 9 2021

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

1. Adjournment