# Record of Discussion

**School Health Coordinators’ Committee Meeting**

**September 8 2020**

**Chair: Cassandra Sullivan (BC)   
Participants:**

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| **Jurisdiction** | **Representative** |
| BC | Cassandra Sullivan |
| AB | Pat Martz |
| SK | Anna Grumbly  Jonathon Renwick  Helen Flengeris |
| MB | Jennifer Wood  Stephen Howell |
| ON | Jennifer Munro-Galloway  Sana Javed |
| NB |  |
| PE |  |
| NS | James Shedden |
| NL | Peggy Orbasli |
| NU | Shara Bernstein |
| NT | Shayla Richards |
| YT | Ian Parker   Brenda Jenner |
| PHAC | Suzy Wong  Adrian Puga |
| **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 July 14 2020 meeting  
   The Record of Discussion from the July 14 2020 meeting was approved.
4. Mandate Renewal: Update  
   Ministerial letters, a copy of the formal Agreement, and invoices for this coming fiscal year were forwarded to the Management Committee representative in each jurisdiction for formal sign off from respective Ministers. Signed formal Agreements from 5 jurisdictions have been received, with several jurisdictions still outstanding. John Cummings (Chair- JCSH Management Committee) has sent out follow-up emails to Management Committee representatives in those respective jurisdictions that have yet to return the signed formal Agreement.
5. Planet Youth (Presentation - Ian Parker)  
   Ian provided the SHCC with an overview of the Planet Youth Prevention Model, after having attended the “Planet Youth Conference” in Reykjavík, Iceland (March, 2020). Pioneered in Iceland, Planet Youth is a prevention model designed and proven to reduce or delay substance use among youth.  
     
   Slide deck as presented:   
     
     
     
   *Discussion*:  
      
   ● Although the drinking age in Iceland is similar to that of Canada (Iceland drinking age: 20 years old), a theme throughout many European countries is that of a culture that sees drinking start much earlier than the legal age.  
     
   ● How might this model/approach fit with current harm reduction approaches in Canada?  
     
   ● It was suggested that there is a seemingly more puritanical abstinence approach in Iceland. This approach is one that would not likely work successfully in Canada, given what we know about harm reduction principles, and the conditions that lead to substance use in youth.  
     
   ● Planet Youth has their own specific data collection tool that they use, and it can be adapted, depending on where it is being used. Between data collection, and having it returned to the community, the turnaround time is 2 months (seemingly much faster than many other surveys, etc).  
     
   ● Currently, the HBSC (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children) team is looking into possibilities for school-level results for the next round of the survey, as well as a faster turnaround for results.  
     
   ● This model is similar to the [“Communities That Care” initiative in Manitoba](https://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/ctc/index.html#:~:text=CTC%20is%20a%20tested%2C%20effective,%2C%20communities%20and%20peer%2Dgroups.). “Communities That Care” is a tested, effective community-wide initiative to promote positive, healthy development of children and youth. The “Communities That Care Youth Survey” looks at all risk and protective factors within a community.
6. PHAC Plans: Funding Ideas (Adrian Puga, PHAC)  
   Adrian Puga (PHAC) presented to the SHCC and put forth the following for discussion and feedback:  
     
   ● Since the inception of the JCSH in 2005, PHAC has funded the JCSH through an annual grant of $250,000  
     
   ● Under the proposed new mandate for 2020-2025, PHAC would fund the JCSH through an annual grant of $150,000  
     
   ● PHAC has the opportunity to direct the balance of $100,000 annually to other initiatives aligning with JCSH priorities  
     
   ● How can PHAC investments align with JCSH Health and Education priorities? *Discussion:*  
   The SHCC brought forth a number of suggestions in regards to how and where the PHAC funds could be directed and used - given current challenges that are present in respective provinces and territories. It was suggested that any initiatives and planning must fall within a COVID-19 context for the foreseeable future. Suggestions brought forth:  
     
   ● Equity and diversity  
   ● Physical activity - worsening rates in students; Sport Canada/Canada Fitness Challenge  
   ● Addressing youth gathering; need for social distancing  
   ● Systemic racism  
   ● Youth empowerment  
   ● Substance use/Vaping  
   ● Student anxiety/Coping skills in face of family job loss  
   ● Family violence since the beginning of Covid  
   ● Positive youth development  
   ● Food insecurity  
   ● Effective health promotion approaches in a Covid context  
   ● LGBTQ students  
   ● Student anxiety and depression  
   ● Protective factors in schools  
   ● Access to technology  
   ● Culturally responsive service delivery  
   ● Mental health and well-being (students and staff)  
   ● Using CSH to implement well-being  
   ● Upstream approaches to address health inequities
7. Emerging Trends and Opportunities / SHCC Check-in

YT  
The [Putting People First](https://yukon.ca/en/putting-people-first)report, released in May, has called for major, system-level changes to improve Yukon’s health care system. In conjunction with Health Canada, work is currently underway on a SUAP (“Substance Use and Addictions Program”) application - with plans to engage with individuals (specifically in rural/remote communities), to build and share knowledge on effective treatments for substance use. This work will bring together several different sectors of the Yukon Government.  
  
NWT  
Students and staff have returned to school in the majority of school districts, with a primary focus on trying to develop more systemic ways/approaches to support the mental health/health and well-being of both students and staff.  
  
NU  
Most students and staff have returned to school, with things running smoothly to date. During the summer months, the Department of Education worked to develop Covid-related toolkits for schools. The Department of Education also developed the “[Recovery Learning Framework for School Leaders](https://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/recovery_learning_framework_en.pdf).” This framework will help to guide school staff and learning environments as in-class learning resumes for K-12 students. Unreliable internet continues to be a challenge in schools, as well as remote service delivery and support. The Department is confident that by the end of the school year, much insight will be garnered in terms of how best to provide culturally responsive service delivery in a remote context.  
  
NL  
The current focus is on return-to-school plans and protocols. Work continues on the guidance documents, and the school district plans and logistics. Work also continues on the physical activity and healthy eating policies for schools, as well as a revamping of the school food guidelines policy.   
  
  
ON  
Schools have reopened with a staggered entry among districts. There is significant surveillance happening in the province, with field service officers communicating daily with the Covid leads from all 72 school boards.  
  
MB  
Schools in the province have reopened. Work continues on the development of the substance use curriculum.  
  
AB  
Schools in the province have reopened. To date, seven schools have already confirmed that they have active Covid cases.  
  
SK  
Schools in the province have reopened with a staggered start. School divisions can now apply to funding that has been made available for PPE (personal protective equipment) and learning supports (including online learning supports). Testing will be available, with staff and students as the priority for the testing. Mask use is required for students in grades 4-12.   
  
BC  
Work continues on what the unintended consequences might be as students return to school, with a focus on potential inequalities that might exist from the implications of Covid, and schools having been closed for such a long period of time.  
  
PHAC  
No report.

1. Upcoming Meetings
   * October 13 2020
   * November 10 2020
   * December 8 2020

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

1. Adjournment