**Common Briefing Note**

# **Subject: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­** *Joint Consortium for School Health (JCSH) Mandate Renewal*

**Lead Jurisdiction:**  **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

**Date: July 15 2020**

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# **Decision(s) / Direction(s) Requested:**

 **Decision** [ ]  **Discussion** [ ]  **Information** [x]

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**1. Background:**

* The Pan-Canadian Joint Consortium for School Health (JCSH) was established in 2005 by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and the Conference of Ministers of Health to facilitate a comprehensive and coordinated approach to health promotion in the school setting. Its purpose is to facilitate the collaboration of the health and education ministries to better accomplish mutual goals and support shared mandates for the promotion of health, wellness, and achievement in children and youth in Canadian schools.
* JCSH comprises the Ministries of Education and the Ministries of Health and/or Wellness from all provinces and territories with the exception of Quebec. Although Quebec shares the concerns and objectives of the JCSH, and will continue to contribute by sharing information and leveraging best practices, Quebec intends to remain solely responsible for responding to school health needs within its territory.
* The federal government also supports the work of the JCSH, with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) serving in a funding and advisory capacity.
* BC was the lead jurisdiction and hosted the JCSH Secretariat for the first five years (2005-2010). JCSH has received consecutive five-year mandates from the FPT Deputy Ministers of Health and/or Wellness and from the PT Deputy Ministers of Education (2010-2015; 2015-2020). Prince Edward Island has been lead jurisdiction and Secretariat host since 2010.

**2. Current Situation:**

* Approval for the 2020-2025 mandate of JCSH was obtained through Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) memo from education deputy ministers, and by email from Health and/or Wellness deputy ministers following a conference call of Deputy Ministers of Health. The new Agreement will run from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025.
* Since the first mandate (2005-2010), the annual budget for the JCSH has been $500,000; as a measure to ensure sustainability and fiscal responsibility, the 2020-2025 mandate includes a reduction in the membership fees for a total annual budget of $250,000 ($150,000 from PHAC; $100,000 from member PTs).
* The funding formula for member contributions is a fixed amount of $2000 for each of the 12 members, with the remaining amount determined by percentage per capita.

**3. Considerations:**

* The Proposed Strategic Directions and Mandate Renewal of the JCSH will focus on key priority areas as identified by the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Health and/or Wellness and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).
* The key priorities put forward in the JCSH mandate include:
	+ **Mental well-being,** including supporting students and school communities during and after COVID-19, social-emotional learning, resiliency, anxiety, protective factors, and disruptive behaviours;
	+ **Problematic substance use,** with a strong initial focus on vaping; and
	+ **School food environment,** including the alignment of healthy eating school food policies and priorities through the comprehensive school health approach.
* The JCSH is able to effectively respond as a knowledge broker on these and other emerging and ongoing issues with member provinces/territories, colleagues in education and health/wellness ministries, and research networks and partners.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Letter to Minister

2. JCSH Agreement 2020-2025

Prepared by JCSH Secretariat

July 15 2020