

Strategic Framework 2017-22



Pursue health equity for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth

- Facilitate the routine use of clinically relevant guidelines to care for Indigenous children and youth, ensuring that these guidelines reflect the unique nature of providing health care in remote communities.
- Advocate for improvements to existing mechanisms for service coverage and delivery.
- Enhance health professional education on Indigenous child and youth health.
- Be an active participant in reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

Expand access to paediatric medications and therapeutics

- Advocate for increased access to life-saving and life-sustaining medications, formulations, therapeutics, medical supplies and other essential health care services.
- Advocate for a federal drug and medical device regulatory framework that meets or exceeds international best practices.
- Guide and support appropriate “off-label” drug use for children and youth.
- Promote child health research, with a focus on paediatric medications, therapeutics and clinical trials.

Advance the practice of social paediatrics

- Enhance the ability of paediatricians to screen for and respond to risk factors associated with the social determinants of health.
- Advocate for appropriate medical care and continuity for children and youth in the child protection and foster care systems.
- Advocate for safe homes, schools and communities, with a focus on protecting children and youth from threats associated with addictive substances, firearms, and other dangerous products and environments.

Nurture early childhood development

- Educate clinicians about key concepts in social and emotional development.
- Improve parent understanding of social and emotional development and what they can do to support it.
- Promote supportive relationships as fundamental to healthy child development.
- Promote the integration of the science of adverse childhood experiences into clinical practice.
- Promote an integrated system for early child development services and programs that is evidence-based and universally-available.

Strengthen child and youth mental health and mental health care

- Increase the competency of child and youth health providers to promote mental wellness and to prevent, diagnose and treat mental health disorders in children and youth.
- Advocate for expanded access to publicly funded treatment for children and youth, including psychology, school-based mental health and developmental services, and specialized inpatient and residential programs.
- Support families with children and youth struggling with mental health issues.
- Enhance the ability of health professionals to prevent and treat misuse of marijuana, alcohol and other substances.

Guiding Principles

These principles have helped shape our strategic framework, and will be reflected in our actions:

Nurturing every child's promise

All children are born with potential. It's up to society to provide the opportunity for all children to achieve their potential. We will identify and pursue objectives that foster the health and development of every child and youth.

Ensuring access to care

Children and youth need high quality health care at the right time and in the right place. We will work to eliminate barriers—financial or otherwise—to essential services and therapies.

Achieving equity

A child's life circumstances should not hinder their ability to grow, learn, or develop. We will work to ensure equity for all children and youth, regardless of where they live or who they are.



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