

Opportunities to advance health equity:
Results of a pan-Canadian environmental scan

NCCDH
 public health action

Environmental Scan
 Health Equity

key informant opportunity expertise implication context insight
 challenge change focus group review

 National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health
 Centre de collaboration nationale des déterminants de la santé

Sume Ndumbe-Eyoh
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Scan objectives


To assess recent change, challenges and opportunities impacting public health action to advance health equity


Methods

Document review (Canadian, published 2010-present)

29 key informant interviews (practitioners, leaders, academics, public health influencers)

4 focus groups (3 English, 1 French)



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How has public health action to advance health equity changed?

There is more:

- Momentum - a “health equity buzz”
- Leadership commitment – Rio declaration
- Organizational structures, staff, and strategic priorities
- Visible leadership champions
- Research and evidence
- Action from other sectors



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Current challenges include:

- Translating interest and commitment into action
- ‘Leveling up’ capacity across the sector
- Skills and competencies: (assessment & surveillance, research & evaluation, policy analysis & advocacy, community engagement)
- Building understanding of public health and health equity terms
- Communicating health equity ideas beyond the public health sector
- Measuring impact



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Opportunities exist to:


- Strengthen networks and sharing lessons learned
- Align common health equity priorities
- Engage other sectors and partners
- Further promote and apply the key roles for public health




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Implications for action: NCCDH and beyond

- Harness existing health equity momentum
- Profile and support leadership commitments
- Engage other sectors in health equity action
- Target knowledge brokering to meet identified gaps in capacity, skills and competencies
- Clarify health equity terms and concepts
- Link and coordinate public health action
- Facilitate difficult conversations



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