

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN: 2006 - 2010

About Us

The Canadian Cochrane Centre is located at the University of Ottawa at the Institute of Population Health. The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCNC) supports the work of the Collaboration in Canada and includes five review groups, two fields and one methods group. The CCNC has a unique feature in that there are also Network Sites which support Canadian contributions to the Collaboration. Finally, the CCNC has affiliate organizations that act as advocates for the work of the CCNC and the Cochrane Collaboration amongst their constituents.

The Canadian Cochrane Centre is one of twelve Centres around the world that support the work of the Cochrane Collaboration (CC). The CC is an international organization that promotes the production and use of systematic reviews for evidence informed decision making in health and the use of those reviews in practice and by health care providers, consumers and policy-makers. The core function of a Cochrane Centre is to support active members of the Collaboration, whether as reviewers, editors, review group co-ordinators, trials search co-ordinators, hand searchers, referees, consumers or members of Fields and Methods Groups. In addition, Cochrane Centres act as a regional focus for the activities of The Cochrane Collaboration in different parts of the world. (The Cochrane Manual, 3-2002). The CCNC also works to increase the profile of Cochrane in the regions across Canada, as well as grow the number of users and authors of Systematic Reviews within Canada.

Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre Composition	
Review Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Group • Effective Practice and Organization of Care • Hypertension • Inflammatory Bowel Disorder/ • Musculoskeletal 	Methods group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting Bias Fields <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Health • Equity
Network Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dalhousie University • McGill University • McMaster University • Memorial University • Northern • Queen's University • Université Laval • Université de Montréal • Université de Sherbrooke • University of Alberta • University of British Columbia • University of Calgary • University of Manitoba • University of New Brunswick • University of Ottawa • University of Saskatchewan • University of Toronto • University of Western Ontario 	Affiliates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L'Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé • The Arthritis Society • Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists • Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists • Canadian Cancer Society • The Canadian Chiropractic Association • Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment • Canadian Dental Association • Canadian Health Libraries Association • Canadian Institute for Health Information • Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability • Canadian Medical Association • Canadian Nurses Association • Canadian Pharmacists Association • Canadian Physiotherapy Association • Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care • Canadian Women's Health Network • The College of Family Physicians of Canada • Dietitians of Canada • Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences • The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Our Vision

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre shares The Cochrane Collaboration's vision:

Healthcare decision-making throughout the world will be informed by high quality, timely research evidence. The Cochrane Collaboration will play a pivotal role in the production and dissemination of this evidence across all areas of health care.

While the CCN/C supports the Collaboration's worldwide efforts, our focus is on making this vision a reality in Canada.

Our Mission

The mission of The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre is to foster evidence-based healthcare decision making by identifying and supporting individuals in Canada who wish to become involved with The Cochrane Collaboration, and by promoting the awareness, appreciation, distribution and use of Cochrane systematic reviews of healthcare interventions.

Our Principles

The Cochrane Collaboration's work is based on ten key principles:

- Collaboration
- Building on the enthusiasm of individuals
- Avoiding duplication
- Minimizing bias
- Keeping up to date
- Striving for relevance
- Promoting access
- Ensuring quality
- Continuity
- Enabling wide participation

Our Strengths

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre has many strengths. With thanks to our funders at CIHR and CADTH, we have been able to bring into the team an Executive Director, one and a half Knowledge Brokers and an Administrative Assistant in addition to the position of Education Coordinator that was already in place.

With the strong leadership consistently demonstrated by the Director combined with the unique skills of each members of the Centre team, the CCNC will be able to achieve its defined objectives over the next 5 years.

In addition to the staff at the Canadian Centre, the CCNC has some tremendous assets across the country. Our Network Sites are a further strength that is unique to Canada. Our Affiliates are also key components to the strength of the CCNC. All of the organizations and people who comprise the CCNC bring their unique contributions to leverage more activity and positive influence for Cochrane in Canada than any one of these could do in isolation.

Our Stakeholders

The stakeholders of the CCNC are many and varied. Systematic Reviews synthesize the available evidence of standard quality levels into one document that reflects a more accurate effect size than the individual studies that it is comprised of. One key stakeholder, then, is health care practitioners who use

this evidence in practice. Another set of key stakeholders is patients (or consumers as we refer to them in the Collaboration). These are people with an interest in the evidence of treatment effects for particular diseases or disorders. We encourage their use of Cochrane reviews to inform their decision-making about their health care, but also to contribute to their production in different ways. Other stakeholders that we see as beneficiaries of the evidence in Cochrane reviews are policy-makers and health care system decision-makers. An important element in making resource decisions and setting health care direction and policy for Canada is the evidence of what works. This is another contribution of the Cochrane Collaboration.

Users are not the only stakeholders of the CCNC. Many authors contribute to the Cochrane library by conducting reviews, many staff support the work of review groups, and, in Canada, many Network sites contribute in kind support for the work of Cochrane. Affiliate organizations have a vested interest in promoting the work of Cochrane and funders provide the financial support to facilitate the work of the CCNC.

Our stakeholders are the people who keep the activities alive and well in Canada and contribute to the well-being of Canadians and our global partners, without whom we would not survive.

The CCNC Strategic Objectives: 2006 to 2010

- Objective 1** Support the preparation and updating of high-quality Cochrane systematic reviews, including training to build the capacity of Canadians to conduct reviews.
- Objective 2** Further the development of methods of systematic review and research synthesis.
- Objective 3** Facilitate Knowledge Translation (KT) of high quality healthcare evidence through formal and informal partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the provision of training in critical appraisal and the use of systematic reviews for Canadian researchers, policy makers, clinicians and consumers.

Meeting Our Goals

Objective 1. Support for the preparation and updating of high-quality Cochrane systematic reviews, including training to build the capacity of Canadians to conduct reviews.

Activity 1.1: Support for preparation and updating of Cochrane reviews

1.1.1 – The Canadian Cochrane Centre will provide information about The Cochrane Collaboration and how individuals can get involved in the Collaboration and facilitate introductions to relevant entities.

1.1.2 – The CCNC will identify Canadian review authors within and outside of Canada, and with the assistance of the Network sites, provide regional support and mentorship and consultation service to support these reviews.

1.1.3 – The CCNC will promote internal communication, to foster the sharing of good practices, to identify common issues and problems and work to address them.

1.1.4 – Work to diversify funding sources for The Cochrane for the long-term infrastructure needs of The Cochrane Collaboration work in Canada.

1.1.5 - Handsearch Canadian healthcare journals published and submit identified controlled trials to the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled trials (CENTRAL) for use by all CRGs.

1.2: Training to build the capacity of Canadians to conduct reviews

1.2.1 – Provide training to Canadians who wish to author systematic reviews. Each year provide at least two introductory seminars, four author training workshops, and two advanced methods workshops per year.

1.2.2 – Act in a central support capacity for training workshops undertaken by the Cochrane entities and Network Sites.

1.2.3 – Build capacity to train review authors by providing one workshop each year designed to improve the skills and capacity of the Faculty involved in training review authors.

Objective 2. Further development of methods of systematic review and research synthesis.

Support for Reporting Bias Methods Group (see 1.1.3: support for Canadian entities and 1.2.6: training for review authors, including advanced methods).

Objective 3. Facilitation of KT of high quality healthcare evidence through formal and informal partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the provision of training in critical appraisal and the use of systematic reviews for Canadian researchers, policy makers, clinicians and consumers.

Activity 3.1: Improving consumer involvement

3.1.1 Establish the Canadian Cochrane Consumer Network to build capacity amongst consumers to assist in producing and in using reviews in the Cochrane Library.

3.1.2 Provide training for members of the Canadian Cochrane Consumer Network, include general information about the systematic review process, evidence-based decision making, training for peer reviewing, using systematic reviews and priority setting.

3.1.3 Support consumers engaged in Cochrane activities to attend relevant meetings via stipends to allow Canadian consumers to attend key events.

3.1.4 Individual support for consumers engaged in Cochrane activities

3.2: Improve “push” approaches to knowledge translation

3.2.1 Establishing the Canadian CHAIN (Contacts, Help, Advice, and Information Network for effective health care), a virtual network of stakeholders in the Canadian healthcare system via an electronic discussion list decision- makers, clinicians and researchers

3.2.2 Maintain an up-to-date, easy-to-navigate website as the primary communications tool of the CCN/C, continuing to provide news and contacts for Canadian Cochrane activities and developing ‘friendly front-ends’ for different stakeholder groups to facilitate easier access to information of interest.

3.2.3 Produce and disseminate information highlighting new and updated systematic reviews with the publication of each new issue of The Cochrane Library . We will highlight new and updated systematic reviews with the publication of each new issue of The Cochrane Library using a variety of methods and partners to assist in disseminating these.

3.2.4 Advocate for a Canadian national license for The Cochrane Library, working with a consortium of interested stakeholders (including Network Sites and Affiliate and other national organizations).

- 3.2.5 Support translation of Cochrane reviews and resources into French (especially those most relevant to Canadian Health Issues) in partnership with representatives from francophone Network Sites, and the international Francophone Cochrane Network.
- 3.2.6 Prepare an Annual Report on the activities and achievements of The Cochrane Collaboration in Canada and disseminate the report to appropriate organizations and individuals (core task).

Activity 3: Improving pull approaches to knowledge translation

- 3.3.1 Build capacity to interpret and use healthcare evidence through different types of workshops tailored to the needs of different stakeholder groups.
- 3.3.2 Organize the Annual Cochrane Symposium in collaboration with one or more Network Sites to train, inform and engage Canadian stakeholders in Cochrane activities.

Activity 4: Improving linkage and exchange approaches to knowledge translation

- 4.1.1 Actively liaise with the Affiliate Organization Representatives to develop, implement and evaluate projects to promote the awareness of Cochrane among their members developing specific plans that identify their information needs, information management approaches and capacity enhancement needs.
- 4.1.2 Provide support services to facilitate interactions between stakeholders and Cochrane entities within Canada and internationally

Additional Tasks

Activity 5.0 Maintain an accurate and complete Centre database of people in Canada involved and interested in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Activity 6.0 Publish Cochrane News and CCInfo as well as post Collaboration newsletters to The Cochrane Collaboration website.

Other Objectives

Develop and Support the Francophone Branch in Canada

Partner with other Francophone countries involved in the Cochrane Collaboration to develop and support the Francophone Branch of the Cochrane Collaboration (the Réseau francophone Cochrane, RFC).

Reporting our Progress

The CCNC reports to CIHR on a regular basis regarding the progress on these objectives. They also submit progress data on behalf of the review groups, fields and methods group in this report.

In addition, the CCNC publishes an annual report (on-line) and reports to the Advisory Board and the Stakeholder Group at least annually.