

## TB Elimination: Public Health Approaches for Priority Populations

### Webinar Companion document

A few key messages and useful resources presented by Dr. Elizabeth Rea and Linette McElroy in NCCID's 2016 Public Health and Preventive Medicine Webinar.

*« If we are going to make any headways in TB, and we haven't for the last decade...we really need to be shaking things up; the status quo of TB programs, the way we have them now in Canada, isn't getting us really far. »* Dr. Elizabeth Rea

- **Focused TB programming built on strong surveillance data.** Surveillance data in Canada can be helpful for TB program planning. It is important to build comprehensive surveillance programmes and tailor initiatives, service delivery and training to what is seen in a given jurisdiction. Recent data from the Canadian Tuberculosis Reporting System (CTBRS) has been published by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

PHAC - Tuberculosis in Canada reports, 2012-2014:

<http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/tuberculosis-tuberculose/surveillance-eng.php>

- **Engaged communities and patients.** For many individuals and groups in Canada, the legacy of marginalization, colonization and evacuation have created barriers to TB diagnosis and care. Engaging communities and patients in efforts to enhance diagnosis and treatment is pivotal to overcoming these barriers; it is important that they be viewed not only as partners, but as the drivers of change. Culture and language are important elements of engagement to be considered.

World Health Organization (WHO) – The Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care; Patients' Rights and Responsibilities:

[http://www.who.int/tb/publications/2006/patients\\_charter.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/tb/publications/2006/patients_charter.pdf?ua=1)

Inuit Tapariit Kanatami (ITK) – Inuit specific tuberculosis strategy:

<https://www.itk.ca/publication/inuit-specific-tuberculosis-strategy>

- **Focused screening practices.** There is a need in Canada to move away from “one size-fits-all” prevention models and focus TB resources more strategically. Targeting immigration screening to individuals with increased risk of active TB, such as those from high incidence countries or with particular comorbidities, and encouraging greater integration between immigration screening programs and provincial/territorial TB programs may be a more efficient way to allocate limited resources. A similar approach should be taken with Indigenous populations with a high prevalence of LTBI combined with multiple risk factors for TB reactivation.

Greenaway, C., (2011), Tuberculosis: evidence review for newly arriving immigrants and refugees. <http://www.cmaj.ca/content/183/12/E939.abstract>

- **Improved diagnosis and treatment through new technologies and therapies.** Innovative approaches to improve diagnosis and treatment outcomes, especially among those with limited access to health and social services, is needed to overcome the challenges of social and geographical isolation faced by many priority populations. Recent TB program innovations include virtual clinic models, rapid molecular diagnosis technology, interferon gamma release assays (IGRA), improved patient-centred care practices, including video-DOT, and new short-course drug regimens that are more appealing to patients (note: as of June 2016, rifapentene is not licensed in Canada).

Taima TB research projects

<http://taimatb.tunngavik.com/>

Virtual clinic – Alberta review paper

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0144784>

- **Sustained support for TB infrastructure.** During this pre-elimination phase of TB in Canada, it has been challenging to maintain the critical infrastructure needed for effective TB control and outbreak response due to fading interests and funding. Recent examples of shortages in TB drugs, Tuberculin Skin Tests and BCG vaccines demonstrate the need to bolster program infrastructure and resources and renew expertise. Better coordination and collaboration across all FPT TB programs could help leverage economies of scale and mobilize knowledge and resources across the country.
- **Consolidated efforts and advocacy to address inequities in social determinants of health (SDOH).** Improving living conditions, including mental health conditions (i.e. ending stigma and oppression) is critical for TB elimination. It is important to engage federal departments, agencies, politicians and other stakeholders as partners towards addressing the social and structural factors (e.g. the inequitable distribution of power, knowledge and resources) that are driving high TB rates among particular populations in Canada.

ITK – Social Determinants of Inuit Health:

<https://www.itk.ca/publication/comprehensive-report-social-determinants-inuit-health-national-inuit-organization>

- **Intensified efforts to fight the global epidemic.** TB burden in Canada is very much connected to the global epidemic; newcomers from high incidence countries experience high rates of TB in Canada and contribute to replenishing the local LTBI pool. The landscape of TB and drug resistance in Canada is very sensitive to shifts in patterns of immigration and emphasizes the importance of intensifying efforts towards fighting the global epidemic.

WHO – The End TB Strategy

<http://www.who.int/tb/strategy/end-tb/en/>

WHO - Global Tuberculosis Report 2015

[http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/)

## **Calls for Action**

STOP TB Canada  
[www.stoptbcanada.org](http://www.stoptbcanada.org)

International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)  
[www.theunion.org](http://www.theunion.org)

## **Additional Resources**

WHO – Towards TB Elimination: An Action Framework for Low-Incidence Countries  
<http://www.who.int/tb/areas-of-work/treatment/elimination/en/>

Canadian Thoracic Society – Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013  
<http://www.respiratoryguidelines.ca/tb-standards-2013>

Health Canada’s Monitoring and Performance Framework for Tuberculosis Programs for First Nations On-Reserve [http://healthy Canad ians.gc.ca/publications/science-research-sciences-recherches/first-nations-tuberculosis-monitoring-framework-cadre-surveillance-tuberculose-premieres-nations/index-eng.php](http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/publications/science-research-sciences-recherches/first-nations-tuberculosis-monitoring-framework-cadre-surveillance-tuberculose-premieres-nations/index-eng.php)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Find TB Resources (large repository of TB education and training resources)  
<https://findtbresources.cdc.gov/>

United States (US) Government - Global Tuberculosis Strategy, 2015-2019  
<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/tuberculosis>

US National Action Plan for Combating Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis  
<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/tuberculosis/national-action-plan-combating-mdr-tb>

CDC - National Tuberculosis Indicators Project (NTPI)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/evaluation/indicators/default.htm>