
Shelters and Public Health: A Winter Institute

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National Collaborating Centre
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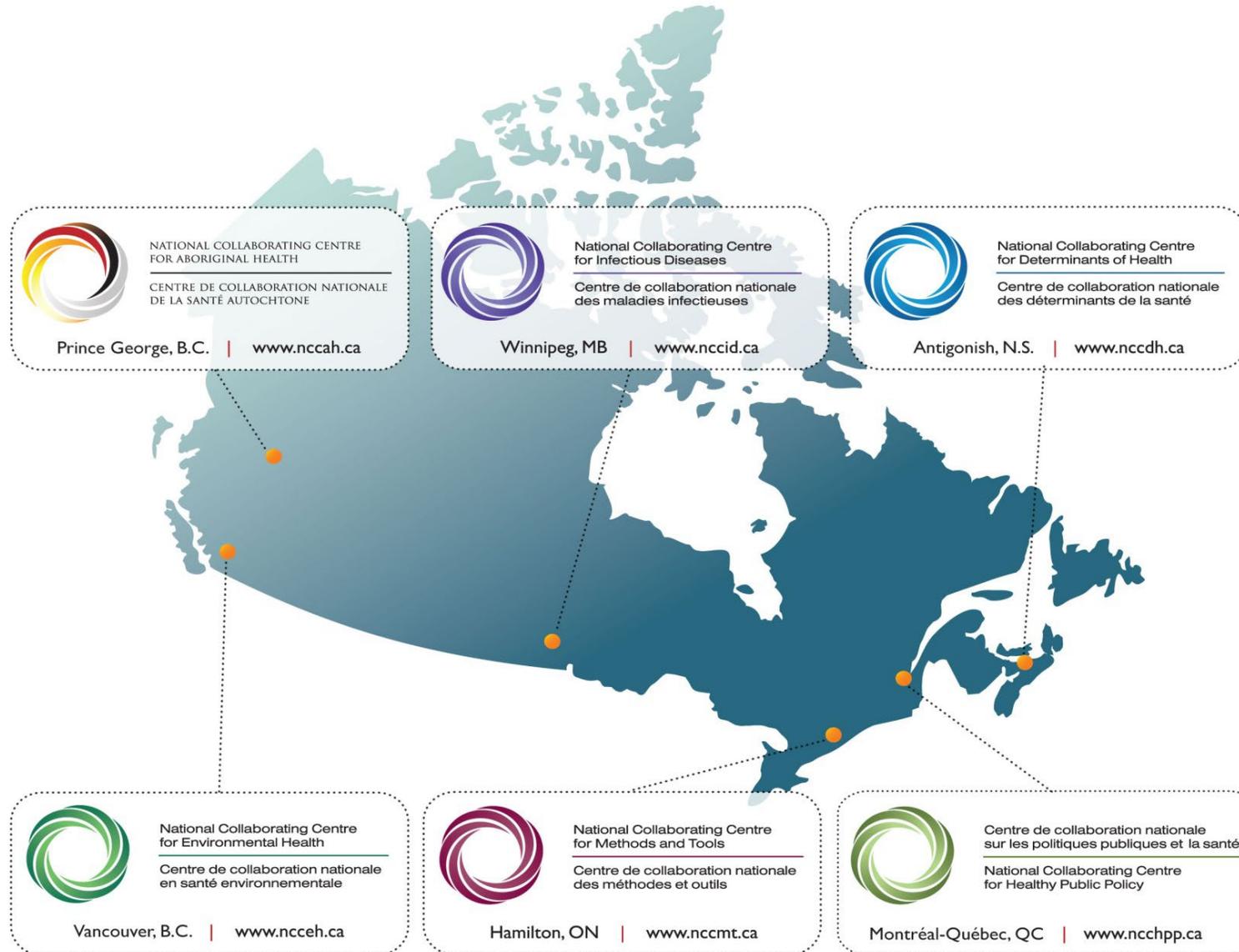
Centre de collaboration nationale
des maladies infectieuses

Land Acknowledgement

The National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) is hosted at the University of Manitoba, situated on the ancestral lands of the Anishnabeeg, Anishniniwak, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowak/Inninwak Nations. It is also in the heart of the homeland of the Métis Nation.

At NCCID, we strive to honour the lands and their original caretakers in our work. We acknowledge that we are on Treaty One land. We recognize that this and other treaties, have been implemented as part of the process of colonization intended to benefit some while harming others. We are committed to working with our partners towards reconciliation.

National Collaborating Centres for Public Health



NCCID, Shelters, and Public Health

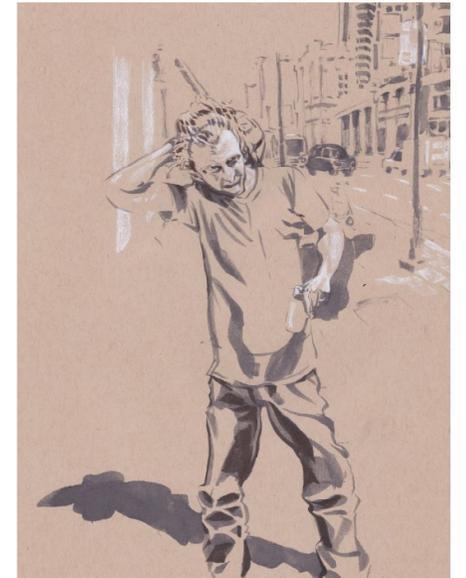
Thinking about people's mobility has been a "lens" for NCCID for some time

- Mobility and movement of populations within Canada
- Movement in and out of certain facilities
- Newcomers to Canada

-Fragmented health care system with limited ability to share data

-Multiple competing priorities

- Reactive rather than preventative





Public Health

"the science and art of preventing disease", prolonging life and improving quality of life through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations (public and private), communities and individuals.

Public health plays an important role in disease and injury prevention through local health systems and non-governmental organizations.

Many programs and interventions are done outside of primary care or hospitals.

Public health aims are achieved through surveillance of cases and the promotion of healthy behaviors, communities and environments. Analyzing the determinants of health of a population and the threats it faces is the basis for public health.

Shelters and Public Health Settings

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines a setting as “the place or social context in which people engage in daily activities in which environmental, organizational, and personal factors interact to affect health and wellbeing”.

A settings approach is often associated with health promotion, specifically

- Published documents often 15 to 20 years old

A settings approach considers the many, interacting components that make up a whole system

- adopts interventions that integrate these components to contribute to optimal health.

The model’s key principles include flexibility, community participation, partnership, empowerment and equity

Essential features may be:

- the organization being the primary unit for change,
 - a focus on addressing the determinants rather than just the symptoms of diminished health,
 - an integration of approaches to all stakeholders, a preference for common actions to address multiple situations, and
 - a holistic view of health
-

NCCID, Shelters and Public Health

We intend this to be a multi-year exploration

Our guiding principles are intended to ensure that we put people first:

- Our primary interest is in the people who make use of shelters and the staff and volunteers who provide services
- Shelters may not agree that public health is a suitable partner. We take our lead from staff at shelters about where public health may be able to contribute.
- Public health personnel may already have good relationships in the community, and can share knowledge and practices with each other
- Activities will explicitly include learning from and working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit community experts and leaders
- Systems and structures (political, economic and governance) can be change to improve health equity for shelter clients, staff and volunteers.



People, Place and Time



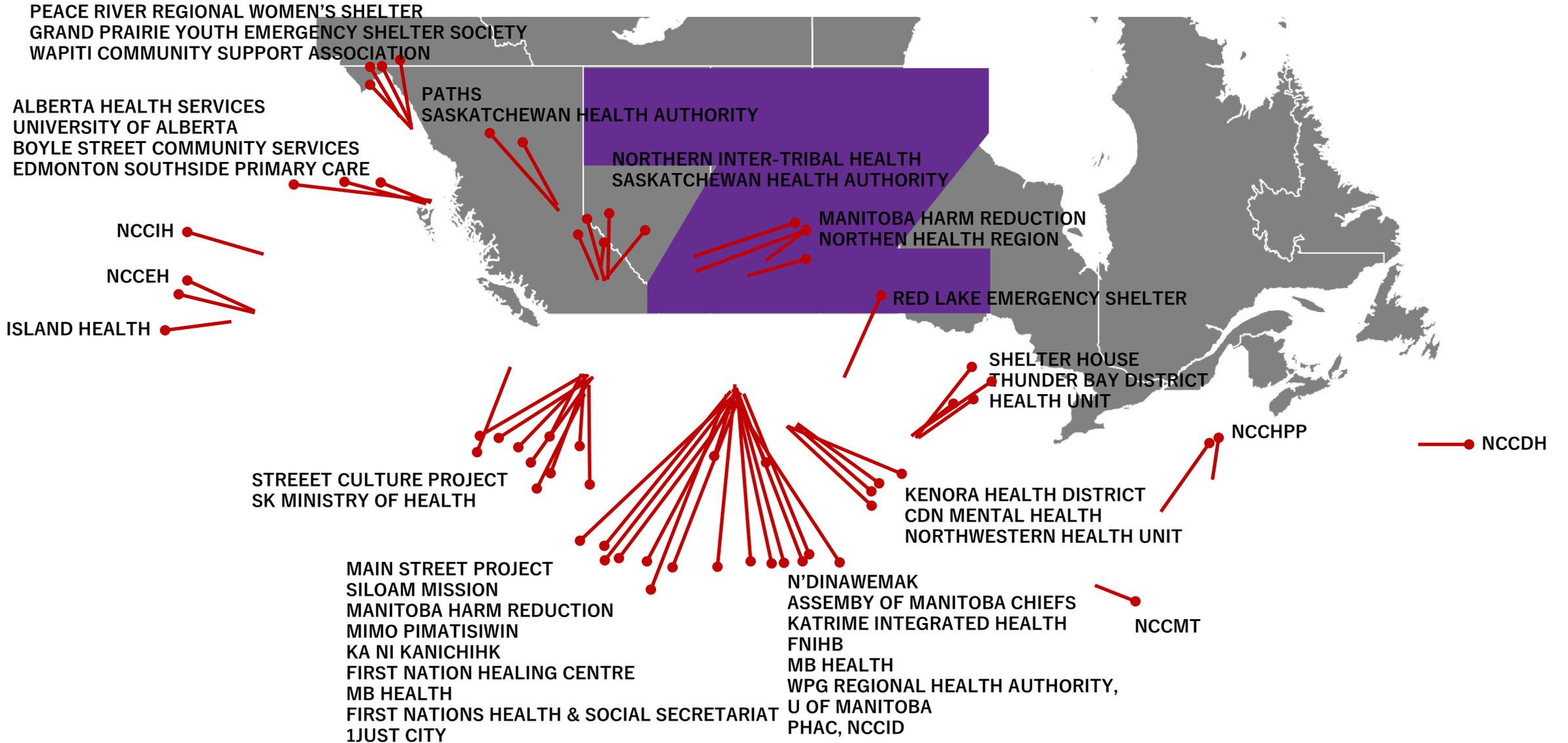
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Began with a series of consultations, which Adina will describe in more detail in the next session

Our primary question was:

- ❖ What do shelter staff and directors think of the idea?

Shelters and Public Health 2023



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- ❖ What do shelter staff and directors think of the idea?

You will notice that for the most part, this event does not include persons with lived experience

- ❖ We understood from the consultations that at this first meeting it will be valuable to discuss what is possible

As the work together becomes more local, it will be essential to include community perspectives and personal stories

Objectives & Format



What we hope to achieve:

- ❖ To explore the possibilities of partnerships between shelters and public health.
- ❖ To learn about building successful, respectful partnerships
- ❖ To understand some of the public health and healthcare needs of shelter clients.
- ❖ To spark discussions towards essential elements for shelter and public health collaborations that can improve the health of shelter clients.

Format is a mixture of plenary sessions, all together, and others where you choose the topic of interest.

We are basing our event on the many topics that emerged from the consultations.

