

2025-2030 National Immunization Strategy (NIS) Renewal Backgrounder

Context

The National Immunization Strategy (NIS) provides a cross-jurisdictional federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) collaboration process to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of immunization programming in Canada. NIS aims to support Canada's immunization programs by:

- Promoting equitable access to routine vaccines;
- Promoting full coverage of all Canadians with routine vaccines;
- Promoting public and professional acceptance of recommend vaccines and programs; and
- Improving FPT collaboration.

History of the NIS

2003 The NIS was approved by the Conference of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Deputy Ministers of Health (CDMH) following direction from the First Ministers 1999 Health Accord to establish a national immunization strategy for Canada.

2011 In April 2011, the Public Health Network Council (PHNC) confirmed that a review of the National Immunization Strategy, and its renewal, including addressing emerging vaccine technologies, is a Communicable and Infectious Diseases Steering Committee (CIDSC) priority. In June 2011, the CIDSC approved the creation of a new, time-limited National Immunization Strategy Task Group to undertake a review of the NIS and report to CIDSC with conclusions and recommendations for the future of immunization in Canada.

2013 The NIS renewal task group established the following 10 Priority Areas for immunization programming:

1. Overarching Direction and Coordination
2. Common Vaccine Guidance
3. Coordinated Immunization Schedules and Programs
4. Program Evaluation and Research
5. Surveillance: Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Registries & Coverage, Vaccine Safety
6. Response to Outbreaks and Adverse Events
7. Vaccine Acceptance and Uptake
8. Security of Vaccine Supply
9. Vaccine Innovation and Development
10. No-Fault Compensation

These 10 priority areas have remained foundational to the NIS since then.

2016 In response to the 2016 budget in which \$25M was committed to immunization, FPTs agreed to 6 short-term objectives that could capitalize on that investment, leverage momentum and build from the 2013 priorities to provide focus for the next five years. The most recent renewal took place in 2016 where FPT governments agreed to six objectives building on the 2013 NIS, aimed towards increasing vaccination rates in Canada, which include:

- Canada has evidence-based goals for vaccine preventable disease rates and immunization coverage.
- Canada has the evidence needed to develop and implement evidence-based interventions.
- Canada understands the key barriers to best practices in improving immunization coverage.
- Canada is able to identify under and unimmunized populations.
- Canadians have the information and tools needed to make immunization decisions.
- Canadians have timely and equitable access to immunization.

NIS Renewal for 2025-2030

2023/2024: The process for the renewal of the NIS 2025-2030 is currently underway. Renewal will re-visit the 10 Priority Areas that have been foundational to the Strategy since 2013. Key immunization partners have been engaged using a variety of methods, including a consultation tool and a survey.

When reviewing the 2013 and 2016 NIS Priority Areas, Objectives and Recommendations to determine their relevance in the current immunization landscape, respondents were asked to bear in mind a number of key considerations, including:

- Best practices and lessons learned from COVID-19 response and related immunization efforts, including the following areas:
 - i. vaccine distribution and administration;
 - ii. domestic vaccine production capacity;
 - iii. strong FPT coordination;
 - iv. supporting vaccine confidence;
 - v. vaccine-related injury compensation; and
 - vi. vaccine surveillance.
- Current and emerging pressures such as the growing vaccine pipeline, vaccine hesitancy and mis- and dis- information, lagging immunization uptake, impacts of climate change and antimicrobial resistance.
- Providing equitable and inclusive support across the life span for all people in Canada.
- Support the federal government's commitment to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples based on recognition of rights, respect, truth, co-

operation, and partnership (e.g. supporting First Nations children through Jordan's Principle).

- Canada's international commitments, most specifically, its commitments under WHO's Immunization Agenda 2030.

Engagement with key immunization partners will be culminating in the Renewal Summit on May 14-15, 2024. The goal of the engagement is to move towards a shared understanding of the overarching vision, priority areas, goals and objectives for a renewed 2025-2030 NIS, and to identify several key priority areas of focus for 2025-2030. Publication of the NIS 2025-2030 is planned for Spring 2025.