

How Expert Committees on Immunization Could Function Better

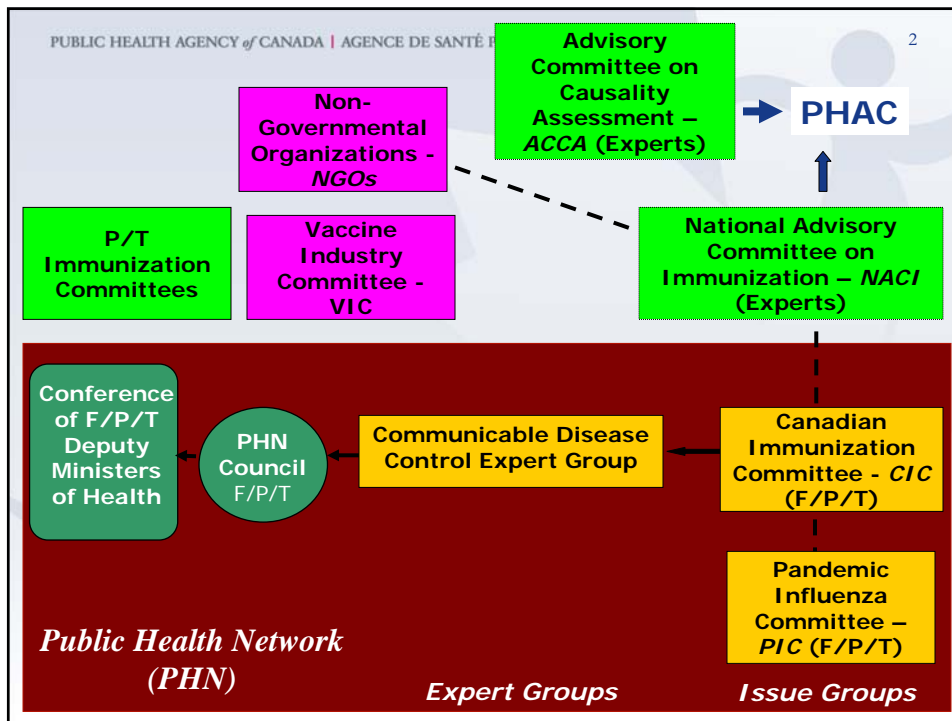
A Public Health Perspective

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY *of* CANADA
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 Public Health Agency of Canada
 Agence de santé publique du Canada

Journée annuelle de santé publique **Canada**
 Montreal, October 27, 2006



Cette présentation a été effectuée le 27 octobre 2006, au cours du Symposium "Mettre la science au service des programmes d'immunisation, le rôle des comités d'experts" dans le cadre des Journées annuelles de santé publique (JASP) 2006. L'ensemble des présentations est disponible sur le site Web des JASP, à l'adresse <http://www.inspq.qc.ca/jasp>.

The National Immunization Strategy has:

5 Key Components

1. National Goals and Targets
2. Equitable Access: Collaborative Immunization Program Planning
3. Vaccine Supply
4. Immunization Registries
5. Vaccine Safety

5 Supporting Themes

1. Research
2. Public Education
3. Professional Education
4. Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance
5. Approaches to Special Populations

Considerations

- NACI, CIC and P/T Immunization Committees deal with similar issues and challenges and often use the same data to make their decisions
- Research, including clinical trials, conducted by the vaccine industry is an important element of the evidence-based decision-making for both scientific recommendations and program implementation decisions
- Non-Government Organizations also develop immunization recommendations

Considerations

- P/T immunization committees guided by their respective jurisdiction's public health priorities
- Achieving a reasonable balance between recruiting scientific experts with necessary expertise while avoiding potential, perceived and real conflicts
 - Different guidance in organizations and jurisdictions
- Difficulties in making timely recommendations given limited human resources and funding

Moving Forward

- Different approaches to leverage Federal, Provincial, Territorial public health resources and research
- Develop rules of engagement for public health to benefit from industry research and expertise
- Strengthen linkages with NGOs in developing communication strategies, education and other collaborations
- Facilitate timely information on new vaccines on the horizon to assist with the development of timely recommendations

Moving Forward

- CIC is facilitating Collaborative Program Planning to:
 - reduce duplication of efforts
 - improve access to vaccines and
 - facilitate policy analysis of new vaccines, through national collaboration on the assessment and prioritization of new vaccines using common criteria

Moving Forward

- CIC is working towards harmonization of immunization programs through
 - Equitable access
 - Avoiding duplication
 - Maximizing program effectiveness and efficiency
 - Research and evaluation to help develop optimal schedules

New Approaches – HPV

- Research priorities setting workshop
- Joint NACI/CIC HPV Work Group established in June 2006 as a new collaborative approach to develop the National Immunization Strategy Analytical Framework for HPV vaccines



New Approaches (Cont'd)

- Similar approach being considered for other new vaccines approved for use
 - Capitalise on province territorial capacities
 - Leverage funding to address the analytic framework
- Providing advice for the pandemic vaccine strategy and the use of prototype pandemic vaccines



Role of Immunization and Respiratory Infections Division, PHAC

- Secretariat
- Reference and data management
- Financial support:
 - literature review, reference database, economic, acceptability, feasibility studies
- Technical support
- Facilitating collaboration