



PUBLIC HEALTH AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Many of Canadians values are based on equity and social justice. These values underlie the foundation for our public health system.
- Such an approach based on equity and social justice is needed to ensure that all sectors of the population benefit from health interventions. Millennium Development Goal number eight calls on countries such as Canada to participate actively in global partnerships to help meet the other social development goals to which Canada has committed.
- The health and human security of Canadians needs to be addressed both on the domestic front, for example the new Agency for Public Health, but also on the global front. Therefore, it is essential that public health and human security of Canadians be integrated with attention to policy coherence into the future foreign affairs, trade and development policy agenda.
- The public health principles of disease prevention, health promotion and protection, and healthy public policy can be used effectively to fight the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS and the other main causes of avoidable deaths in low-income countries, which include malaria, tuberculosis, childhood infectious diseases, maternal and perinatal conditions, micronutrient deficiencies, and tobacco-related illnesses.
- Our health and human security as Canadians, now depends on Canada's commitment to investments in sustainable and equitable public health systems, preventing the reverse brain drain in human resources, governance, and transparency processes on a global level.
- Diseases do not respect political borders. Strengthened and sustainable health systems and policies will contribute to both better health promotion and disease prevention, and to the treatment and management of disease, infectious or otherwise, if it occurs.
- Modifiable risk factors, especially tobacco use, now threaten to become the leading causes of premature deaths in many countries, including countries such as China. Canada needs to adopt a policy coherence that prevents trade policies and missions that support the tobacco industry, and at the same time move urgently towards ratification of the International Framework Convention for Tobacco Control.
- It is essential that Canada embeds public health and human security into our future foreign policy agenda.