



ACCELERATING OUR RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN ON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED AND BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIONS—IN BRIEF

OBJECTIVE: Accelerate prevention, diagnosis and treatment to reduce the health impacts of sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) in Canada by 2030

STRATEGIC GOALS

- › Reduce the incidence of STBBI in Canada
- › Improve access to testing, treatment, and ongoing care and support
- › Reduce stigma and discrimination that create vulnerabilities to STBBI

COMMITMENTS

Moving toward truth and reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples

- › Support First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples' priorities.
- › Improve availability and accessibility of community-level data on STBBI outcomes.
- › Invest in culturally safe prevention, education and awareness initiatives.
- › Invest in culturally responsive initiatives, developed to facilitate access to ongoing care and support.

Stigma and discrimination

- › Raise awareness of the adverse impacts of stigma and discrimination and support campaigns that promote inclusion and respect.
- › Equip professionals with skills to provide culturally responsive services in safe environments.
- › Invest in research on stigma and discrimination to inform responses to eliminate transphobia, biphobia and homophobia.
- › Promote awareness of the impact of gender-based violence, sexism and racism on vulnerability to STBBI.
- › Continue to work toward reducing the over-criminalization of HIV non-disclosure in Canada.

Community innovation

- › Support communities in designing and implementing evidence-based front-line projects to prevent new and reoccurring infections.
- › Bring high impact interventions to scale so that more people benefit from them.
- › Support community-based efforts to reach the undiagnosed and link them to testing, treatment and care.



COMMITMENTS *(cont.)*

Reaching the undiagnosed

- › Promote culturally safe community-led models to increase testing in remote, rural and northern settings.
- › Develop and deploy technology that supports equitable access to testing.
- › Facilitate the availability of new testing technologies on the Canadian market.
- › Support the uptake and integration of new testing approaches in care systems.

Prevention, treatment and care *(applies to populations that receive health services or coverage of health care benefits from the federal government)*

- › Provide effective STBBI prevention, testing and treatment to eligible populations according to best practices.
- › Provide coverage for treatment and health services for eligible individuals.
- › Incorporate harm reduction approaches to meet the public health needs of populations more likely to be exposed to STBBI.
- › Facilitate linkage to care and treatment for those individuals transitioning from federal to provincial and territorial health systems.

Leveraging existing knowledge and targeting future research

- › Invest in basic, translational, and clinical research, implementation science, community-based, population health and health system research.
- › Expand the prevention toolkit—vaccine and biomedical prevention research.
- › Invest in emerging and innovative testing and diagnostic technologies and approaches.
- › Invest in research on novel therapeutic strategies and the biological mechanisms influencing predisposition to, or persistence of, STBBI, with a continued focus on a cure for HIV.
- › Develop First Nations, Inuit and Métis health research capacity.

Measuring impact

- › Develop Canada's STBBI targets and indicators with our partners.
- › Strengthen national surveillance systems to provide necessary data.
- › Report on progress annually.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- › Meaningful engagement of people living with HIV and viral hepatitis and key populations
- › Moving towards truth and reconciliation
- › Integration
- › Cultural relevance
- › Human rights
- › Health equity
- › Life course approach
- › Multi-sectoral approach
- › Evidence-based policy and programs