

TITLE: System Approach to Prevent Chronic Disease

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ABSTRACT BODY: The need is increasing to better link research, policy and practice in chronic disease prevention (CDP). At the same time, the number, variety and roles of organizations with an interest in CDP is changing rapidly, and calls for improved coordination and alignment are increasing. Yet we have little understanding of what it means to take a systems approach. In 2006, the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance used consultation and research to develop a CDP systems model for Ontario. The envisioned system is comprised of 6 elements (capacity development; best practices identification; research; surveillance and monitoring; evaluation; and implement (program and policy); and 3 processes (planning and coordination; knowledge exchange; advocacy). The system proposed is designed primarily at a provincial level; focused on supporting strong community-level interventions; and geared to create synergy with Federal and international initiatives. Critical success factors are that system priorities and functions be impact and improvement-oriented; needs and opportunity-driven; evidence-informed; and feasible.

This presentation will describe the research, consultation, and partnerships utilized to develop the systems model; describe the systems model components; and discuss the dissemination and advocacy for model uptake. Attendees will become familiar with 'systems thinking' and its relevance to achieving better outcomes in chronic disease prevention and emerging CDP roles for different sectors.