

## Canadian Pain Care Forum (CPCF)

### Inspiration

Approximately a decade ago, the *US Pain Care Forum* held its inaugural meeting to share information and coordinate responses to federal and state initiatives. Starting with handful of patients, medical and industry representatives, this group has grown to encompass over 75 national and regional organizations that meet monthly and often attract key guest leaders/speakers from various agencies of the U.S. administration.

### Canadian Context

With the election of a new federal government in October 2015 there were early indications of a collaborative tone and direction to engaging with Stakeholders. It was felt that the timing was right to establish the *Canadian Pain Care Forum* in 2016. Many organizations in Canada are devoted in some capacity, directly or in-directly, to the relief of palliative, acute and/or chronic pain or policy efforts in this area. These organizations face similar challenges such as:

- 1) Putting “pain” on the public policy (national, provincial or local) radar to effect policy discussion(s) and positive policy/legislative/regulatory change;
- 2) Educating policy makers and the general public on the pervasiveness of “pain” in Canada and its inherent personal, healthcare and societal costs (estimated at \$60B annually); and
- 3) Balancing discussion (policy, media and societal) on major public health issues such as the crisis of prescription drug abuse, misuse and diversion in the context of the continuing need of access to the responsible treatment of pain across a breadth of diseases and health conditions.

These organizations include non-profit patient/consumer education and advocacy organizations, healthcare professional(s) associations, policy organizations, medical services organizations, academic health-science centres, law enforcement, addiction and treatment, and the pharmaceutical and medical products businesses.

Recent and historic efforts on engaging policy-makers around the issue of “pain” have tended to be independent and isolated without the advantage of sustained national coordination and resourcing. Moreover, the various actors enumerated above often operate with different sets of information (political and data sources), the aggregation of which would provide a significant advantage of intelligence needed for effective planning and action to better address the three challenges identified above.

## Proposal

To address this fragmentation of knowledge and effort, the *Canadian Pain Care Forum* (CPCF) was established to:

- 1) Provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas to further the general education of members regarding public policy issues surrounding the treatment of pain.
- 2) Provide a forum to coordinate and focus commitments to action – all voluntary – regarding the broad range of public policy issues that can and do affect the treatment of pain.

Participation in the CPCF is open to all organizations who have a demonstrated interest in and desire to improve national and/or provincial pain care public policy – respectful debate/differing positions welcome. The CPCF is committed to improving the understanding and knowledge of member organizations and to promote coordinated actions on common interest public policy issues.

CPCF membership has grown to over 130 people representing over 90 organizations across Canada. Approximately 40 members regularly participate in the forums either in-person or by teleconference – ‘*proceeding towards a national pain strategy*’.

	CPC Forum Dates	Speakers	Topic
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	September 22, 2023	<p><b>Julie Masse</b>, MSc, erg. PhD student Clinical Associate Professor</p> <p><b>Joanne Higgins</b>, PhD, erg. Full Professor and Director of Occupational Therapy Program, Rehabilitation School, University of Montreal</p> <p><b>Dr. David Flusk</b>, Medical Director AMN NL</p>	<p><i>Understanding and advancing the OT role in chronic pain management</i></p> <p><i>The Atlantic Mentorship Network for Pain and Addictions. Expansion networks beyond Nova Scotia in NL, PEI and NB</i></p>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	June 3, 2023	<p><b>Dr. Patricia Poulin</b>, Clinical Health and Rehabilitation Psychologist, The Ottawa Hospital Pain Clinic</p> <p><b>Dr. Nader Ghasemlou</b>, Director, Pain Chronobiology &amp; Neuroimmunology Laboratory, Queen University</p>	<p><i>Power over Pain Portal</i></p> <p><i>CircaPain - a basic scientists learns about patient engagement and embarks upon a new pathway for his research</i></p>

20 <sup>th</sup>	February 3, 2023	<p><b>Andrea Furlan,</b> Chair of ECHO Ontario Pain and Opioid Stewardship</p> <p><b>Norm Buckley,</b> Nominated Principal Investigator, Chronic Pain Network</p>	<p><i>The Future of ECHO Chronic Pain in Canada</i></p> <p><i>Chronic Pain network – Next Steps</i></p>
19 <sup>th</sup>	September 9, 2022	<p><b>Maria Hudspith,</b> Executive Director of Pain BC</p> <p><b>Jean-Francois Leroux</b> Manager, Chronic Pain Policy Team, Health Canada</p>	<p><i>Pain Canada: Driving Change Through a Multistakeholder Action Network</i></p> <p><i>Health Canada Update – Federal Response to the Canadian Pain Task Force’s Recommendations</i></p>
18 <sup>th</sup>	May 6, 2022	<p><b>Kate Demers,</b> Assistant Professor Department of Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology, McMaster University</p> <p><b>Katie Birnie,</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine, and Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary</p>	<p><i>Pain Management in Midwifery Care</i></p> <p><i>Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP)</i></p>
17 <sup>th</sup>	January 21, 2022	<p><b>Jennifer Nash,</b> Assistant Professor Department of Anesthesia, McMaster University</p> <p><b>Fiona Webster,</b> Associate Professor, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Western University</p>	<p><i>Pain curriculum on chiropractic training</i></p> <p><i>The issue of pain and addiction for marginalized population</i></p>
16 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 1, 2021	<p><b>Phil Emberley,</b> Acting Director, Professional Affairs of the Canadian Pharmacists Association</p>	<p><i>Canadian Pharmacists Association’s role in interdisciplinary pain care and the pharmacy curriculum on pain.</i></p>

		<p><b>Hillel Finestone</b> Director of Stroke Rehabilitation Research, Bruyere Continuing Care Elisabeth Bruyere Hospital</p>	<p><i>Chronic pain management: Learnings from a nurse-led program in primary care.</i></p>
15 <sup>th</sup>	April 23, 2021	<p><b>Karen Cohen,</b> Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Psychological Association</p> <p><b>Alida Bowman,</b> Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University</p>	<p><i>Psychology Graduate Training in Pain Care in Canada</i></p> <p><i>Education and Training Standards in Pain Care for Nurses in Canada</i></p>
14 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 21, 2021	<p><b>Lisa Graves,</b> Professor Family and Community Medicine Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine</p> <p><b>Fran Kirby,</b> Project Manager, Response to Opioid Crisis Project Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC)</p> <p><b>Dave Walton,</b> Associate Professor, School of Physical Therapy, Western University, Health Sciences</p>	<p><i>Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) - An update on Canadian Medical Schools Response to the Opioid Crisis: Best Evidence Training for the Next Generation of Canadian Physicians on Pain Management, Opioid Stewardship &amp; Substance Use Disorder</i></p> <p><i>Initiatives related to broad-based curriculum reform in Physiotherapy programs across Canada and Western University's new competency-based Masters degree program in interprofessional pain management.</i></p>
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sept 18, 2020	<p><b>Patricia Poulin,</b> Clinical, Health, and Rehabilitation Psychologist, The Ottawa Hospital Pain Clinic Associate Scientist, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute</p> <p><b>Jennifer Stinson,</b> Mary Jo Haddad Nursing Chair in Child Health</p>	<p><i>The Pain Portal: Building on Lessons Learned from Wellness Together Canada to Improve Access to Chronic Pain Care</i></p> <p><i>Stepped care solutions to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, substance use, and</i></p>

		<p>Scientist, Child Health Evaluative Sciences Nurse Practitioner, Chronic Pain Program The Hospital for Sick Children</p>	<p><i>functioning in youth living with chronic pain: A pan-Canadian study</i></p>
12 <sup>th</sup>	May 1, 2020	<p><b>Lynn Cooper,</b> President, Canadian Pain Coalition Patient Partner <b>Jacques Laliberté,</b> Immediate Past President AQDC CPN, Patient Co-Chair Executive Committee Patient Partner <b>Billie Jo Bogden,</b> Co-Founder, CEO - PEOPLE Centre Ottawa, Ontario Patient Partner</p>	<p><i>Impact of COVID-19 on People living with Chronic Pain, Update from our Patient Partners</i></p>
11 <sup>th</sup>	January 24, 2020	<p><b>Andrea Currie,</b> Canadian Pain Task Force Secretariat, Health Canada</p>	<p><i>Update on the Canadian Pain Task Force and Federal Actions on Pain</i></p>
10 <sup>th</sup>	September 6, 2019	<p><b>Andrea Furlan,</b> Associate Professor Department of Medicine, University of Toronto Staff Physician and Senior Scientist, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute</p> <p><b>Fiona Campbell and Maria Hudspith,</b> Co-chairs of Canadian Pain Task Force</p>	<p><i>Demonopolizing knowledge from pain experts to clinicians practicing in underserved, rural and remote areas using ECHO</i></p> <p><i>Updates on the Canadian Pain Task Force</i></p>
9 <sup>th</sup>	April 26, 2019	<p><b>Fiona Campbell and Maria Hudspith,</b> Co-chairs of Canadian Pain Task Force</p> <p><b>Jason Busse,</b> Associate Professor, Michael G. DeGroot, Institute for Pain Research</p>	<p><i>Updates on the Canadian Pain Task Force</i></p> <p><i>Initiating the Guideline Development Process for Cannabis and Chronic Pain</i></p>

		and Care, McMaster University	
8 <sup>th</sup>	January 18, 2019	<p><b>Katie Gasparelli</b>, Senior leadership team of Six Nations Health Services</p> <p><b>Norm Buckley</b>, Director, National Pain Centre, McMaster University</p>	<p><i>Considerations when working with Indigenous people and communities</i></p> <p><i>Chronic Pain Network - CIHR/SPOR – description and relationship to CPCF</i></p>
7 <sup>th</sup>	October 19, 2018	<p><b>Fiona Campbell</b>, Associate Professor, Anesthesia, University of Toronto; President-Elect, Canadian Pain Society</p> <p><b>Owen Williamson</b>, President, Pain Medicine Physicians of BC Society; <b>Norm Buckley</b>, Director, National Pain Centre, McMaster University</p>	<p><i>Events following submission of the 2012 National Pain Strategy to Parliament;</i> <i>Current position of moving ahead with a Canadian Pain Strategy: The Canadian Pain Society</i></p> <p><i>National Pain Strategy Development – Rationale and Process</i></p>
6 <sup>th</sup>	April 13, 2018	<p><b>Mary Lynch</b>, Professor, Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS</p> <p><b>Billie Jo Bogden</b>, Patients of Eastern Ontario Pain Lifestyle Education Centre (PEOPLE Centre)</p>	<p><i>National Pain Strategy for Canada (2012): Background and Observations</i></p> <p><i>Shifts in Modern Pain Medicine – Legislative and Regulatory Changes</i></p>
5 <sup>th</sup>	January 19, 2018	<b>Kaelan Moat</b> , Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact, McMaster University	<i>Proceeding Towards a National Pain Strategy</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	October 13, 2017	<b>John Lavis</b> , Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact, McMaster	<i>Proceeding Towards a National Pain Strategy</i>

		University  <b>Susan Tupper</b> , Strategy Consultant, Pain Improvement and Research, Saskatoon Health Region	<i>Saskatchewan Pain Strategy</i>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	May 5, 2017	<b>Jason Busse</b> , Associate Professor, Michael G. DeGroote, Institute for Pain Research and Care, McMaster University  <b>Bob Phillips</b> , Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute (TAPMI)	<i>2017 Canadian Opioid Guideline Update</i>  <i>Key factors leading to development of Cancer Control Strategy and its implementation</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	February 17, 2017	<b>David Williams</b> , Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario	<i>Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose in Ontario</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	June 17, 2016	<b>Norm Buckley</b> , Director, National Pain Centre, McMaster University	<i>Developing plans towards a national pain strategy</i>

### **Developing a National Pain Strategy for Canada**

The McMaster Health Forum convened a **Deliberative Dialogue, December 14, 2017**, on the subject of developing a national pain strategy for Canada. With the support of the Institute for Pain Research and Care, in the context of **support for the Chronic Pain Network**, which is part of Canada’s Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR), the dialogue brought together 24 participants from across Canada to examine the problem, elements of a comprehensive approach for addressing it, and key implementation considerations. The resulting evidence brief, dialogue summary, and interviews from the Health Forum are available on the McMaster Health Forum website titled [Developing a National Pain Strategy for Canada](#).

At the **April 2018 Canadian Pain Care Forum** we asked our members present the *Proposal for a National Pain Strategy* document to their organization executives for discussion and return with a proposal or other indication of support. Our target is to have a document that will outline a bold but achievable plan to improve the prevention and treatment of chronic pain in Canada and, in so doing, help to address the opioid crisis. We want a National Pain Strategy document that is ready to go on to Health Ministers’ agendas.

In **June 2018**, **Owen Williamson**, President, Pain Medicine Physicians of BC Society and **Norm Buckley**, Director, National Pain Centre, McMaster University, met in Ottawa with **Jean-Francois Leroux**, at that time, Senior Policy Advisor / Opioid Response Team Health Canada and presented our proposal and the “ask”: funding to establish and support a Canadian Pain Task Force led by Health Canada and to facilitate discussions with all the other relevant federal government ministries.

In **September 2018**, at the Opioid Symposium in Toronto, the response of Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Federal Minister of Health, was: “I also heard the call for a National Pain Strategy and have asked my officials to consider a task force on pain and what that might look like”.

In **April of 2019**, the Federal Minister of Health announces the formation of a **Canadian Pain Task Force**, as well as an External Advisory Panel, at the Canadian Pain Society 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting. The eight-member Task Force includes advocates who have lived experience with chronic pain, as well as researchers and health providers who have experience preventing and managing pain. Five of the eight members also have ties to the Chronic Pain Network – four of which are members of the Network’s governance. In addition to the Task Force itself, an External Advisory Panel was formed to provide advice and information on certain elements of the Task Force’s mandate. The Chronic Pain Network’s own scientific director, Dr. Norm Buckley was asked and has accepted a position on the Panel. Dr. Christine Chambers, a member of the Network’s Knowledge Translation committee, has also accepted a position on the External Advisory Panel. The Panel has already met with the Task Force once and looks forward to continuing to provide valuable input to help address this issue.

In **June of 2019**, the Canadian Pain Task Force released its **first report** to the public titled [Chronic Pain in Canada: Laying a Foundation for Action](#) highlights the state of chronic pain in Canada. The Task Force was formed by the Government of Canada in March 2019 to assess the current state of pain in Canada and to recommend an improved approach to addressing pain in the country.

In **October 2020** and **March 2021**, the Canadian Pain Task Force releases its second, and third (and final) report to Health Canada. The **second report**, titled [Working Together to Better Understand, Prevent, and Manage Chronic Pain: What We Heard](#), summarizes what was heard from extensive consultations from nearly two-thousand people, about the gaps and challenges, best and promising practices, and elements of an improved approach to preventing and managing chronic pain. The **final report**, titled [An Action Plan for Pain in Canada](#) provides recommendations on priority actions that ensure people with pain are recognized and supported and that pain is understood, prevented, and effectively treated throughout Canada. The report also provides direction for supporting future change to better meet the needs of people living with chronic pain.

CPCF will continue to expand its membership, bringing together people and organizations which can and should have influence upon the development of a strategy for understanding and treating pain in Canada.

FUNDING - CPCF members are voluntary and attend at their own expense. Meeting expenses are underwritten by the Michael G DeGroote Institute for Pain Research and Care and the National Pain Centre, at McMaster University, through the generous gift which Mr. DeGroote has given to support pain research and care in Canada.