

Action items from collaborators meeting of 29 July 2021

0. Review action items from last meeting and today's agenda	<p>Action items from last meeting - see attachment 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All action items have been completed or are in progress. <p>Other agenda items for today? (key items are in yellow cells)</p>
OVERALL PROJECT REVIEW	
1. Project progress	<p>Status overview <i>8 months completed, 4 months to go</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Status of requests and completed products</u> (<i>including plain language summaries</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ John walked participants through the products in progress (and the teams supporting the work), completed products, and expected updates for living evidence profiles and syntheses. ◦ To address one participant's question, work being conducted on long COVID was outlined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simon Décaray (Université de Sherbrooke) is leading work in this topic, including the <u>living evidence synthesis</u> on management of long COVID symptoms and care models for long COVID patients, and has numerous connections across the country and has a good grasp of what is happening day to day on the topic. He can be reached at decaray.simon@gmail.com. - PHAC is conducting two complementary syntheses on long COVID, one on prevalence by population group, and one on risk factors for developing post-COVID conditions. ◦ Our citizen partnership group has been able to identify patient partners with living experience who are actively contributing to the work of evidence synthesis teams • Currently we have 61 completed products (new and updates), 4 in-progress and 6 planned (72 total) • Leveraged relationships, contracts, and grants (<i>including to co-sponsor many evidence synthesis products and updates</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CoVaRR (\$200,000) - of which \$170K will support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Janet Curran and her team at Dalhousie to continue their living evidence syntheses on variants of concern (VOC) and implications for public-health measures and for health-system arrangements, - Alfonso Iorio's and Julian Little's teams at McMaster and U Ottawa, respectively, to continue the updating of living evidence syntheses on vaccines and VOC, and - Alfonso's new evidence service focused on VOC, that will also include pre-prints ◦ PHAC ◦ Other CIHR and NSERC-funded networks and teams (modeling, trials, Indigenous) collaboration discussions are in progress ◦ COVID-END in Canada partners ◦ Other examples of funding support received (information provided in the chat box) are two CIHR grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to the Health Information Research Unit (HIRU) for applying machine learning to rapid evidence processing (\$200 K), and - to the MacGRADE Centre for the eCOVID recommendations map phase II (\$500K)
2. Legacy planning	<p>Evidence Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ John walked participants through the slide deck. (The slides will be circulated with the meeting notes). ◦ Participants shared their thoughts on several aspects, including the importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - selecting the right type of evidence for the right type of question (and John mentioned that we have a commission report exhibit on this topic) - conducting analyses about, and documenting lessons learned from, how pandemic decision-making and the pandemic evidence response (also see below under COVID-END in Canada) - various jurisdictions' ability to use the recommendations of the Evidence Commission as they will draw lessons learned from their own pandemic response and other relevant

	<p>past experiences, address any shortfalls, and prepare for better responses in future crises (also in routine times)</p>
	<p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ follow the commission's Twitter and LinkedIn, and check back on website for news and for draft exhibits that will be posted starting in August (and sign up for the newsletter as soon as it's available) ○ provide feedback on the draft exhibits/infographics and the pathways to influence and, if you agree with the points being advanced through the exhibits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - distribute them through your networks and communication channels - feel free to use them in your own work (e.g., include in your slides) ○ consider how we can prepare in the next six months to dramatically to up our game in Canada's evidence ecosystem (building on what went well, and addressing the things that did not go as well as they should have) and reflect on these three key aspects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What structures and processes are required at what levels (global, national and provincial) to ensure the pipeline of highly relevant, high quality and up-to-date evidence products (evidence syntheses as well as data analytics, modeling, evaluation, etc.) are produced to equitably meet the needs of decision-makers? 2) What structures and processes are required by decision-makers (government policymakers, organizational leaders, professionals, and citizens) to ensure that their evidentiary needs are recognized, and that relevant evidence syntheses and other evidence products are commissioned, accessed and routinely considered during decision-making? 3) How can we support cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination in ways that break down boundaries of existing or perceived silos (e.g., between the evidence infrastructures supporting clinical, public health, health system, and economic and social decision-making) and is sensitive to policy, political and system considerations?
COVID-END Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific initiatives led by COVID-END working groups and task groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ papers (methods, evaluation, lessons learned, citizen-specific experiences) ○ events (Cochrane convenes) ○ inventory enhancement (e.g., addition of equity dimension) ○ support to Evidence Commission (e.g., disseminating exhibits through e-mechanisms)
COVID-END in Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario asset map expected in September, which could be a prototype for a national asset map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consideration will be given to how to extend the mapping across Canada (possibly done by groups based in various provinces) • Advocating for a sustainable evidence ecosystem that is fit for purpose (including both coordination and distributed capacity). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John emphasized that now is the time to advance the conversation about what the future evidence ecosystem needs to look like, but also about how governments need to up their game on integrating evidence into their decision-making processes. The next six months are critical for this work. The secretariat has been in conversations with stakeholders in BC, AB, NS and other provinces. ○ Maureen Dobbins commented on the importance of work being conducted on lessons learned in Canada ○ John also encouraged anyone interested in deriving empirically based lessons learned from the COVID-19 evidence response in Canada to do so as soon as possible and to share it with us so we can incorporate it in the living evidence profile on lessons learned about what went well and what could have gone better in Canada (and see here for the lessons from other countries)
STANDING ITEMS	
A) Activity streams	
3.New or updated syntheses	

Rapid evidence profiles (REPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above (<i>in project progress</i>)
Rapid evidence syntheses (RSs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above (<i>in project progress</i>)
Plain language summaries (includes summaries for living documents below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressing well, in collaboration with citizen partners. Plain language summaries available through the scan evidence products link in the ‘resources for decisionmakers’ section (and plans underway for additional dedicated page)

4. Living evidence syntheses

Living evidence profiles (LEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Living evidence syntheses (LES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living behavioural sciences documents funded by PHAC (see link above)

5. Inventory of ‘best evidence syntheses’

Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9,357 syntheses from high-quality/high-yield sources → 7,251 non-duplicate syntheses → 4,897 decision-relevant syntheses → 576 ‘best’ evidence syntheses (updated 28 July) • Additional fields for equity considerations being planned
Searchable database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full database of syntheses from around the world powers the inventory, and it will soon be available in searchable form
Inventory spotlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian (see below) and global inventory spotlights

6. Evidence-demand coordination

Canadian Public Health Network (SAC and TAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content from our spotlights is being included in the weekly evidence summary being distributed to all SAC members
Other PHAC (e.g., Chief Science Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communications
Other federal government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat continues to reach out to government contacts with three calls to action:
Provincial and territorial governments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) sign-up for the twice-a-month email updates 2) submit a request using the online form (for questions from high-level decision makers) 3) use the COVID-END inventory when looking for the best global evidence and reminders to use the COVID-END website for additional resources
• Tracking	
• Webinars (and presentations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars and presentations conducted since the last collaborators meeting (full roster for COVID-END in Canada can be found here: webinars, presentations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quarterly meeting of the evidence-synthesis teams, with presentations about citizen partnerships - completed 22 June ◦ Workshop hosted by CIHR: Rapid-reviews for decision-makers - completed 30 June

7. Horizon scanning

• Adjustments to existing process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizon scans are published once a month and include a briefing note about emerging issues, and a panel summary about priority issues for Canada.
• Canadian panel membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 Canadian horizon scanning panel members; three meetings completed (28 April, 26 May, 28 July), two more scheduled (29 September, 27 October) • Many Canadian members observing the global horizon scanning panel meeting

8. Evidence-supply coordination

• Evidence-synthesis teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly meeting of the evidence-synthesis teams (two completed: 29 March, 22 June), and two more scheduled (27 September, 22 November) • The ‘Resources for researchers’ webpage has been further enhanced
• Canadian synthesis spotlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian spotlights can be accessed here
• Dissemination vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to subscribe here (and encourage others to do the same) to the Canadian COVID-19 email update, which provides three types of products from COVID-END in Canada: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Canadian spotlights, ◦ global spotlights, and ◦ horizon scans • Distribution also through partner newsletters, websites, and social media • Plans underway for citizen-focused social media communications (see below)

B) Cross-cutting

1. Citizen partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen partnership update (see attachment 3) Maureen Smith gave a brief update on the work of the citizen partners group ACTION: Everyone to review the brief attachment prepared by Maureen Smith and François-Pierre Gauvin and contact them (emails included in the report) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> request citizen partners as collaborators on your work, and/or provide feedback on how to refine the citizen engagement process 20 citizen partners are trained and available to partner with research teams and can provide input into framing the question, feedback on the syntheses, perspectives from their lived experiences, and to support the preparation of plain language summaries and infographics. Reminder that resources are available to researchers for engaging citizens.
2. Indigenous peoples engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans underway to connect with five teams who received CIHR funding for knowledge syntheses, and to collaborate with CoVaRR's Indigenous reach and groups such as the Indigenous Primary Health Care and Policy Research (IPHCPR) Network based in AB. Also, advisors identified through the evidence commission work
3. Website and communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources for Canadians section of the COVID-END site Citizen-focused content added, and a separate page being planned to facilitate direct access to plain language summaries
4. Measuring impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
OTHER BUSINESS / ARISING ISSUES	
1. Round table: relevant initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief updates about other relevant initiatives underway in Canada Jeremy provided a brief outline of CoVaRR work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong COVID-END link had been built into the grant because of the significant foundational work done by COVID-END, and the collaboration is going very well; as mentioned above, CoVaRR is providing additional funding to allow continuation of living evidence syntheses on VOC-related topics Efforts are underway to connect with circles of influence addressing VOC A map of all the funded research on COVID-19 in Canada has so far identified 537 projects with a total of \$211 million in funding (this does not include the most recent call). Further analysis of what has and has not been funded is being planned, and how the COVID-19 funding compares to other topics, for example mental health and Indigenous knowledge syntheses competitions.
2. Upcoming meetings FYI	<p>Next meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence-synthesis teams: 27 September Collaborators: 7 October Steering Committee: 16 November
3. Other business	Other business – TBD