

## Action items from 13 July 2021 meeting of the steering committee

(\*this agenda is attachment 1 in the meeting package)

<p><b>0. Review action items from last meeting and today's agenda</b></p>	<p>Action items from last meeting - <b>see attachment 2 - all addressed or in progress</b></p> <p>Other agenda items for today? (key items are in yellow cells)</p> <p>Introduction: Jenn Verma, Sr. Advisor, Policy and System Impacts, and Executive Lead, Global Commission for Evidence to Address Societal Challenges</p>						
<p><b>OVERALL PROJECT REVIEW</b></p>							
<p><b>1. Project progress</b></p>							
<p>Status overview 8 months completed, 4 months to go</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>status of expenses - <b>updated amounts:</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 451 1112 525"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Actual + forecast</th> <th>Remaining</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$514,368</td> <td>\$282,304</td> <td>\$232,064</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </li> <li>leveraged relationships, contracts, and grants (including to co-sponsor many evidence synthesis products and updates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoVaRR (\$200,000)</li> <li>PHAC</li> <li>Other CIHR and NSERC-funded networks and teams (modeling, trials, Indigenous)</li> <li>COVID-END in Canada partners</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>We anticipate that we will be wrapping up the project at the end of November 2021.</p>	Budget	Actual + forecast	Remaining	\$514,368	\$282,304	\$232,064
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\$514,368	\$282,304	\$232,064					
<p><b>2. Legacy planning</b></p>							
<p>Evidence Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges</li> <li>Jenn Verma provided an update on the Evidence Commission - slides have been circulated with the meeting notes. The commission's report is expected to be completed by December 2021. The first set of exhibits will be circulated in draft form by the end of August.</li> <li>Several participants showed enthusiastic support for the initiative and commented that now is the time to be taking action - pushing for conversations and collectively moving the agenda in the second half of 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Everyone</b> to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>think about what intermediaries and events are on your radar that would be relevant to the commission's pathways to influence</li> <li>consider the three questions on slide 16 (also see the three questions at the bottom of this document) and send feedback to the secretariat team (<a href="mailto:covidend@mcmaster.ca">covidend@mcmaster.ca</a> or <a href="mailto:evidencecommission@mcmaster.ca">evidencecommission@mcmaster.ca</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Jenn</b> to book a meeting with Gaynor to continue conversations about Dalhousie</li> <li><b>Jenn</b> to connect with Doris in view of organizing a presentation to the RNAO team</li> <li><b>Owen</b> to brief CMA colleagues (including Alison Forestell, who is scheduled to meet with Jenn today 13 July) (<b>done</b>)</li> <li><b>Secretariat</b> to contact the team at McGill (see below in the 'roundtable' agenda item)</li> </ul>						
<p>COVID-END Global</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific initiatives led by COVID-END working groups and task groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>papers (methods, evaluation, lessons learned, citizen-specific experiences)</li> <li>events (Cochrane convenes)</li> <li>inventory enhancement (e.g., addition of equity dimension)</li> <li>support to Evidence Commission (e.g., disseminating exhibits through e-mechanisms)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>						
<p>COVID-END in Canada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario asset map expected in September, which could be a prototype for a national asset map</li> <li>COVID-END funding ends at end of November 2021, but part of what we are doing is globally (through the evidence commission) as well as nationally and provincially to advocate for a sustainable evidence ecosystem that is fit for purpose (including both coordination and distributed capacity).</li> </ul>						
<p><b>STANDING ITEMS</b></p>							
	<p><b>Topic</b> (change to 'Notes and actions' in action items doc)</p>						

A) Activity streams	
<b>3. New or updated syntheses</b>	
Intake and prioritization (includes intake for living docs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Status of requests and completed products</a> (including plain language summaries)</li> <li>• John walked participants through the list of products.</li> <li>• In addition, work is underway by other groups on vaccine confidence and uptake using an equity lens: a group at the University of Calgary is doing work specific to Indigenous peoples, and the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH) is going doing work on racialized communities.</li> <li>• Participants discussed topics that may require evidence syntheses, including vaccine boosters, vaccine inequity, vaccination of children.</li> <li>• Gaynor mentioned that Dalhousie is looking to support the international vaccine (in)equity conversation through their Dal global health office and welcomes opportunities to collaborate.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Secretariat</b> to distribute across the COVID-END network the products related to equity aspects of vaccine confidence and uptake</li> <li>• <b>Secretariat</b> to consider a possible evidence synthesis on international vaccine equity and vaccine justice</li> </ul>
Rapid evidence profiles (REPs)	• See above
Rapid evidence syntheses (RSs)	• See above
Plain language summaries (includes summaries for living documents below)	• Progressing well, in collaboration with citizen partners. Plain language summaries available through the <a href="#">scan evidence products</a> link in the ‘resources for decisionmakers’ section (and plans underway for additional dedicated page)
<b>4. Living evidence syntheses</b>	
Living evidence profiles (LEP)	• See above
Living evidence syntheses (LES)	• See above
Other	• Living behavioural sciences documents funded by PHAC (see link above)
<b>5. Inventory of ‘best evidence syntheses’</b>	
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8,490 syntheses from high-quality/high-yield sources → 6,645 non-duplicate syntheses → 4,679 decision-relevant syntheses → 536 ‘best’ evidence syntheses (updated 7 July). <b>This represents a 95% “reduction in noise”</b></li> <li>• Additional fields for equity considerations being planned</li> </ul>
Searchable database	• A full database of syntheses from around the world powers the inventory, and it will soon be available in searchable form
Inventory spotlights	• Canadian (see below) and <a href="#">global inventory spotlights</a>
<b>6. Evidence-demand coordination</b>	
Canadian Public Health Network (SAC and TAC)	• 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)	• Regular communications
Other federal government Provincial and territorial governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat continues to reach out to government contacts with three calls to action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) sign-up for the twice-a-month email updates</li> <li>2) submit a request using the online form (for questions from high-level decision makers)</li> <li>3) use the COVID-END inventory when looking for the best global evidence and reminders to use the COVID-END website for additional resources</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
• Tracking	
• Webinars (and presentations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinars and presentations conducted since the last steering committee meeting (full roster for COVID-END in Canada can be found here: <a href="#">webinars</a>, <a href="#">presentations</a>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Awareness-raising <a href="#">webinar</a> among government of Canada staff and CIHR - 19 May</li> <li>◦ Quarterly meeting of the evidence-synthesis teams, with presentations about citizen partnerships - 22 June</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop hosted by CIHR: <a href="#">Rapid-reviews for decision-makers</a> - 30 June</li> </ul>
<b>7. Horizon scanning</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjustments to existing process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Horizon scans</a> are published once a month and include a briefing note about emerging issues, and a panel summary about priority issues for Canada.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian panel membership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 Canadian horizon scanning panel members; two meetings completed (28 April, 26 May), three more scheduled (28 July, 29 September, 27 October)</li> <li>Many Canadian members observing the global horizon scanning panel meeting</li> </ul>
<b>8. Evidence-supply coordination</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence-synthesis teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly meeting of the evidence-synthesis teams (two completed: 29 March, 22 June), and two more scheduled (27 September, 22 November)</li> <li>The <a href="#">‘Resources for researchers’</a> webpage has been further enhanced</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian synthesis spotlights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian spotlights can be accessed <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder to <a href="#">subscribe here</a> (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"> <li>Canadian spotlights,</li> <li>global spotlights, and</li> <li>horizon scans</li> </ul> </li> <li>Distribution also through partner newsletters, websites, and social media</li> <li>Plans underway for citizen-focused social media communications (see below)</li> </ul>
<b>B) Cross-cutting</b>	
1. Citizen partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration with PHAC (long COVID reviews) - <b>PHAC started two new reviews on long COVID (one on risk factors; the other on symptoms and outcomes) and we have now connected our citizen partners with lived experience to support these two reviews (as well as the COVID-END living evidence synthesis about care models for long COVID)</b></li> <li>Project with the COVID-END global Prioritizing working group (includes creating documents for citizen engagement targeted to specific review which may be transferable to Canadian reviews)</li> <li>Website and social media project underway ‘for the public’</li> <li>We have 20 citizen partners who 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.</li> <li>Reminder that <a href="#">resources</a> are available to researchers for engaging citizens.</li> </ul>
2. Indigenous peoples engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 (IPH CPR) Network based in AB.</li> <li>Also, advisors identified through the evidence commission work</li> </ul>
3. Website and communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Resources for Canadians</a> section of the COVID-END site</li> <li>Citizen-focused content added, and a separate page being planned to facilitate direct access to plain language summaries</li> </ul>
4. Measuring impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>OTHER BUSINESS / ARISING ISSUES</b>	
1. Round table: relevant initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief updates about other relevant initiatives underway in Canada</li> <li><b>McGill: they hosted an international policy event “Policy for better lives” in May, addressing societal challenges.</b> <a href="https://www.mcgill.ca/ihsp/events/program-policies-better-lives-strategies-life-satisfaction-and-human-wellbeing">https://www.mcgill.ca/ihsp/events/program-policies-better-lives-strategies-life-satisfaction-and-human-wellbeing</a></li> <li><b>Secretariat</b> to look into the proceedings from the McGill-hosted event.</li> <li><b>Doris offered to steering committee members to disseminate information through the RNAO Blog (350K subscribers around the world)</b></li> </ul>

2. Upcoming meetings	Next meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-synthesis teams: 27 September</li> <li>• Collaborators: 7 October</li> <li>• Steering Committee: 16 November</li> </ul>
3. Other business	Other business – TBD



## Considerations for our Discussion

- 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?
- What structures and processes are required by **decision-makers** (government policymakers, organizational leaders, professionals, and citizens) to ensure that their evidentiary needs are recognised, and that relevant evidence syntheses and other evidence products are commissioned, accessed and routinely considered during decision -making?
- 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?

## Steering committee members

Role category	Name	Role	Organization	Email
Representatives of evidence-synthesis teams based in government	Trevor Corneil	Senior Medial Advisor, COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Government of BC	BC CDC and Ministry of Health	<a href="mailto:trevor.corneil@ubc.ca">trevor.corneil@ubc.ca</a>
	Anne Hayes	Director, Research, Analysis and Evaluation Branch (RAEB)	Ontario Ministry of Health	<a href="mailto:anne.hayes@ontario.ca">anne.hayes@ontario.ca</a>
	Andrea Proctor <i>(delegate for Anne)</i>	Manager, Evidence Synthesis Unit, RAEB	Ontario Ministry of Health	<a href="mailto:andrea.proctor@ontario.ca">andrea.proctor@ontario.ca</a>
	Denis Roy	Vice-président, Stratégie, Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux	INESSSS	<a href="mailto:denis.roy@inesss.qc.ca">denis.roy@inesss.qc.ca</a>
Representatives of KT/ intermediary initiatives	Maureen Dobbins	Scientific Director	National Collaborating Centres for Methods and Tools (NCCMT)	<a href="mailto:dobbinsm@mcmaster.ca">dobbinsm@mcmaster.ca</a>
	Margo Greenwood	Academic Leader	National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health	<a href="mailto:margo.greenwood@unbc.ca">margo.greenwood@unbc.ca</a>
Citizen leaders	Maureen Smith	Chair	Cochrane Consumer Network Executive	<a href="mailto:maureen_smith@rogers.com">maureen_smith@rogers.com</a>
	One other person			
Representatives of major professional bodies	Doris Grinspun	Chief Executive Officer	Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario	<a href="mailto:dgrinspun@rnao.ca">dgrinspun@rnao.ca</a>
	Owen Adams	Senior Advisor to the CEO	Canadian Medical Association	<a href="mailto:owen.adams@cma.ca">owen.adams@cma.ca</a>
Representatives of policymakers/ leaders	Marina Salvadori	Senior Medical Advisor, Clinical Lead COVID-19	Public Health Agency of Canada	<a href="mailto:marina.salvadori@canada.ca">marina.salvadori@canada.ca</a>
	Braden Manns	Associate Chief Medical Officer	Alberta Health Services	<a href="mailto:braden.manns@albertahealthservices.ca">braden.manns@albertahealthservices.ca</a>
	Gaynor Watson-Creed	Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health, Nova Scotia Health Authority	Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness	<a href="mailto:gaynor.watson-creed@novascotia.ca">gaynor.watson-creed@novascotia.ca</a>
Co-principal applicants	John Lavis	Co-Lead, COVID-END and Director, McMaster Health Forum	COVID-END, McMaster Health Forum   RISE	<a href="mailto:lavis@mcmaster.ca">lavis@mcmaster.ca</a>
	Andrea Tricco	Director, Knowledge Synthesis Team in the Knowledge Translation Program, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital	SPOR-EA	<a href="mailto:andrea.tricco@unityhealth.to">andrea.tricco@unityhealth.to</a>
	Nancy Santesso	Deputy Director	Cochrane Canada	<a href="mailto:santesna@mcmaster.ca">santesna@mcmaster.ca</a>
	Jeremy Grimshaw	Co-Lead, COVID-END, and Senior Scientist, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI)	COVID-END, OHRI   RISE	<a href="mailto:jgrimshaw@ohri.ca">jgrimshaw@ohri.ca</a>
Ex-officio members	Alfonso Iorio	Chair, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence & Impact and Director, Health Information Research Unit	COVID+, McMaster University	<a href="mailto:iorioa@mcmaster.ca">iorioa@mcmaster.ca</a>
	Ileana Ciurea	Senior Advisor, Strategy, Collaborations and Innovation	COVID-END, McMaster Health Forum   RISE	<a href="mailto:ciurea@mcmaster.ca">ciurea@mcmaster.ca</a>
Staff support and note-taker	Sara Weberman	Senior Project Manager	COVID-END, McMaster Health Forum   RISE	<a href="mailto:webermsm@mcmaster.ca">webermsm@mcmaster.ca</a>