



Mental health and criminal justice

A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada



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of Canada

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du Canada



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Land Acknowledgement

The Head Office of the Mental Health Commission of Canada is located on the unceded, traditional Territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation, in what is now called Ottawa, Ontario. We acknowledge that for thousands of years, the Algonquin People protected these lands, the Ottawa River Watershed, and its tributaries.

As a national organization, we also acknowledge that we work on the traditional lands of many different nations. Today, a path to truth and reconciliation begins with recognizing both the stewardship and the sacrifices of the original peoples.

Support & Housekeeping

Crisis Services Canada

1-833-456-4566

Text 45645

Wellness Together Canada

1-866-585-0445

Text WELLNESS to 741741

Hope for Wellness Help Line (for Indigenous Peoples)

1-855-242-3310



Today's Agenda

- Introduction to the National Action Plan
 - Phase 1: Planning, Direction, and Oversight
 - Phase 2: Informing the National Action Plan
- Discussion and Q&A
- Closing

Introduction to the National Action Plan



National Action Plan Development



Phase 1: Planning, Direction, and Oversight



Phase 1: Key Activities

- Workplan & engagement plans
- Procuring project advisors
- Establishing the Development Advisory Committee
- Developing the foundational elements

Project Advisors



Catherine Latimer
Executive Director

The John Howard Society of Canada



Dr. Ruth Elwood Martin
Inaugural Director

UBC Collaborating Centre for
Prison Health and Education



Howard Sapers
Chair

Structured Intervention Units
Implementation Advisory Panel

Development Advisory Committee

Researchers
Unions and employee associations
Priority populations
Criminal justice workers
Police organizations
Federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments
Advocate bodies
Academia
Mental health
Indigenous Peoples and organizations
People with lived and living experience
Subject matter experts
Victims and survivors
Social service agencies

Foundational Elements of the National Action Plan

- Vision
- Mission
- Guiding principles
- Priorities
- Cross-cutting considerations

Foundational Elements: Vision

“We envision a transformed Canada where all individuals have access to the supports, services, and opportunities needed to achieve and maintain optimal mental health and thrive. The stigmas of mental illness, substance use, and criminal justice involvement have faded, and the focus is on upstream prevention, early intervention, and diversion from the criminal justice system.”

Foundational Elements: Mission

“To support the mental health and well-being of all individuals who interact with the criminal justice system by inspiring individual, societal, and systemic change.”

Foundational Elements: Guiding Principles

1. Grounded in lived experience
2. Rights respecting
3. Anti-racist
4. Informed by promising practices and/or evidence-based
5. Person-centred
6. Culturally appropriate, safe, and meaningful
7. Integrated
8. Collaborative and intersectoral
9. Equitable
10. Actionable, implementable, and feasible
11. Accessible

Foundational Elements: Priorities

1. Upstream prevention and early intervention
2. Supporting mental health across the continuum of criminal justice involvement
3. Structure, law reform, and system transformation

Foundational Elements: Priorities

1. Upstream prevention and early intervention

- 1.1. Incorporating the determinants of health and promoting health equity
- 1.2. Programs and services outside of the criminal justice system

Foundational Elements: Priorities

2. Supporting mental health across the continuum of criminal justice involvement

2.1. Mental health and substance use needs in the criminal justice system

2.1.1. Justice-involved individuals

2.1.2. Victims and survivors of crime

2.1.3. Individuals who work within, or those whose work relates, to the criminal justice system

2.1.4. Others who are impacted by the criminal justice system

2.2. Programs and services within the criminal justice system

Foundational Elements: Priorities

3. Structure, law reform, and system transformation

3.1. Issues such as decriminalization, governance, public policy, institutional oversight/structure, culture, and solitary confinement.

Foundational Elements: Cross-Cutting Considerations

- Indigenous Peoples, communities, methodologies, principles, and rights
- Priority populations
- Broader societal issues and the current social environment
- Stigma and public perceptions

Roadmap of the National Action Plan

Mental health considerations across the criminal justice continuum

Pre-contact with the justice system	Police/first responder interactions	Pre-trial/trial	Sentencing	Custody and other sentences	Post-release / (re)integration
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Upstream prevention and early intervention

Supporting mental health across the continuum of criminal justice involvement

Structure, law reform, and system transformation

Indigenous Peoples, communities, methodologies, principles, and rights

Priority populations

Broader societal issues and the current social environment

Stigma and public perceptions

Legend

Priority Cross-cutting consideration

Phase 2: Informing the National Action Plan



Phase 2: Key Activities

- Bimonthly meetings with Development Advisory Committee
- Working groups
- Consolidation of frameworks and strategies
- Broader engagement strategy
- Communications activities

Working Groups

Priority 1:
Upstream
prevention &
early intervention

Priority 2:
Supporting
mental health
across the
continuum of
criminal justice
involvement

Priority 3:
Structure, law
reform, and
system
transformation

**Cross-cutting
consideration 1:**
Indigenous
Peoples,
methodologies,
etc.

**Cross-cutting
consideration 2:**
Priority
populations

Cross-cutting consideration 3: Broader societal issues and the current social environment

Cross-cutting consideration 4: Stigma and public perceptions

Consolidation of Frameworks

- Consolidation of frameworks and strategies on mental health and criminal justice
- Work is lead by The University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research (at The Royal Ottawa Health Care Group)
- Final report expected in early 2023

Phase 2: Next steps

- Broader engagement strategy
- Knowledge exchange opportunities

Questions? Comments?



Discussion: Informing the NAP

1. What are the top challenges and barriers faced by individuals who interact with the criminal justice system in seeking to achieve and maintain optimal mental health and well-being?
2. Are you aware of any promising practices, policies, or programs that work well to support the mental health of individuals who interact with the criminal justice system?
3. Do you have any recommendations on who should be engaged in this work?



Stay engaged



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Thank You!

Contact us:
justice@mentalhealthcommission.ca

Visit our website at
mentalhealthcommission.ca/justice



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