



NATIONAL FORUM

FOR HEART DISEASE & STROKE PREVENTION

partnership ■ policy ■ action

Global Summit on Education and Training in Heart
Disease and Stroke Prevention October 15-16, 2009
CDC Global Communications Center, Atlanta, Georgia

Degree Programs in Public Health: *A Canadian Perspective*



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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Range of Degree Programs Offered in Public Health

Undergraduate

- Bachelor of Science (BSc) but relatively few.

Graduate

- Master of Public Health (MPH), professional degree
- Doctorate of Public Health (Dr. PH), professional degree
- Doctorate of Science (Dr. Sc)
- Master of Science (MSc), research degree
- Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD), research degree
- Joint degrees offered in conjunction with another discipline (MD, MBA)



Graduate Programs

Features and Benefits

- full time and part time —————> flexible
- on campus or at a distance —————> accessible
- practicum placements —————> practical application
- diverse student groups —————> rich learning environment
- acquire advanced knowledge and skills —————> become well prepared to apply knowledge/skills
- exposure to senior managers/public health practitioners —————> networking and mentoring opportunities



Degree programs in Public Health

- **Interdisciplinary preparing generalists and specialists**
- **Strong focus on leadership, and science integration**
- **Address professional needs but also research oriented training**
- **Linkages to the public health practice at community and policy levels**
- **Address both new and current public health practitioners**



Degree programs in Public health

- Increasing emphasis on
 - healthy public policy
 - complexity /systems theory / solutions
 - leadership/partnership/communication /negotiation/global diplomacy skills
 - macro economics
 - global health
- Strengthening a culture of knowledge translation



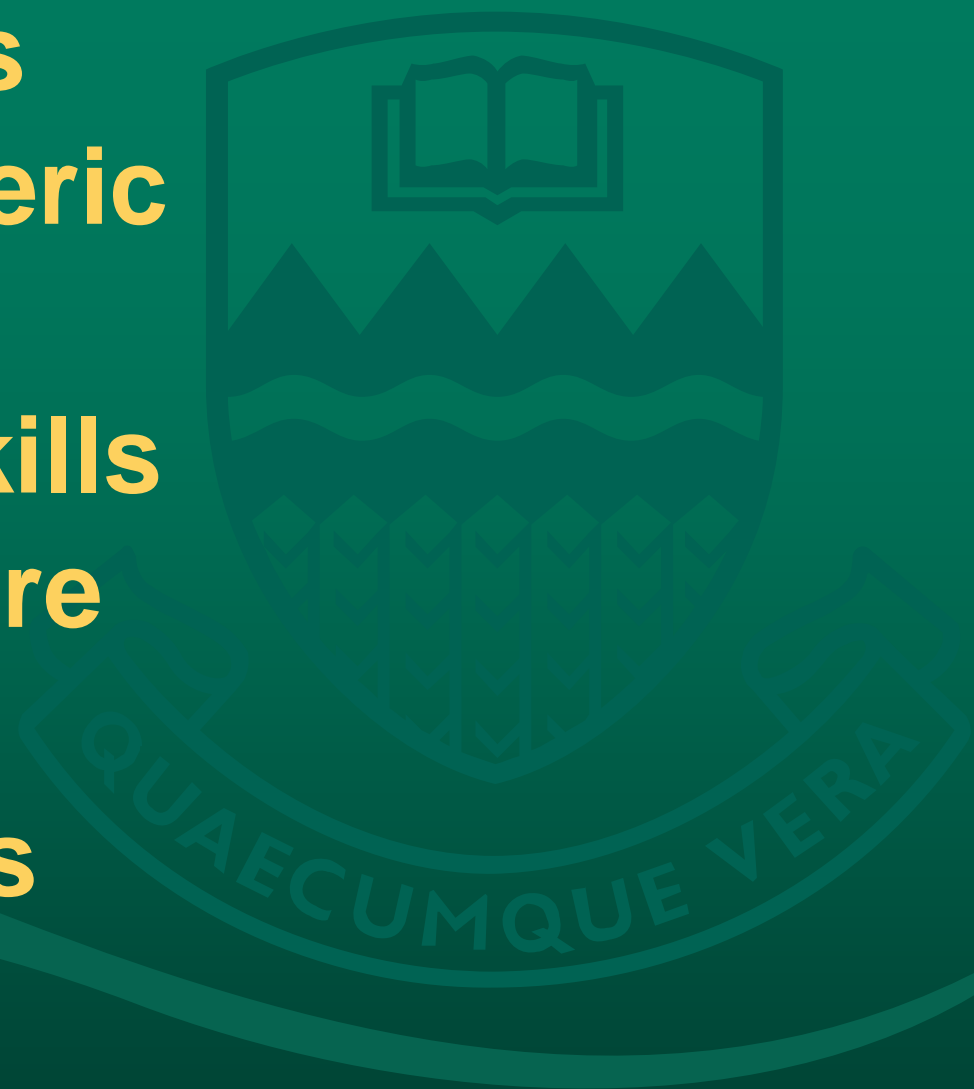
Context for the Contribution of Degree Programs in Public Health

Results of the survey of international needs in training for CVD prevention

Some areas of need:

- Strategies to address social and broader determinants of CVD
- Monitoring and evaluating programs for effectiveness
- Leadership skills for CVD prevention
- Program design and implementation
- Social marketing of prevention messages.....

**Many of the needs
identified are generic
public health
knowledge and skills
included in the core
competencies
defined by various
national and
international
organizations**





Canada's Core Competencies in Public Health

(Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008)

Competencies - Essential knowledge skills and attitudes necessary to practice public health:

Seven categories - 36 core competencies

- 1. Public Health Sciences** – (1.4 Use evidence & research to inform health policies & programs)
- 2. Assessment & Analysis** – (2.4 Analyze information to determine appropriate implications uses, gaps, & limitations)
- 3. Policy & Program Planning** – (3.6 Evaluate an action, policy or program)





Canada's Core Competencies in Public Health

(Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008)

Seven categories (*continued*)

4. *Partnerships, Collaboration & Advocacy*

5. *Diversity & Inclusiveness* – (5.1 Recognize how the determinants of health influence the health & well-being of specific population groups)

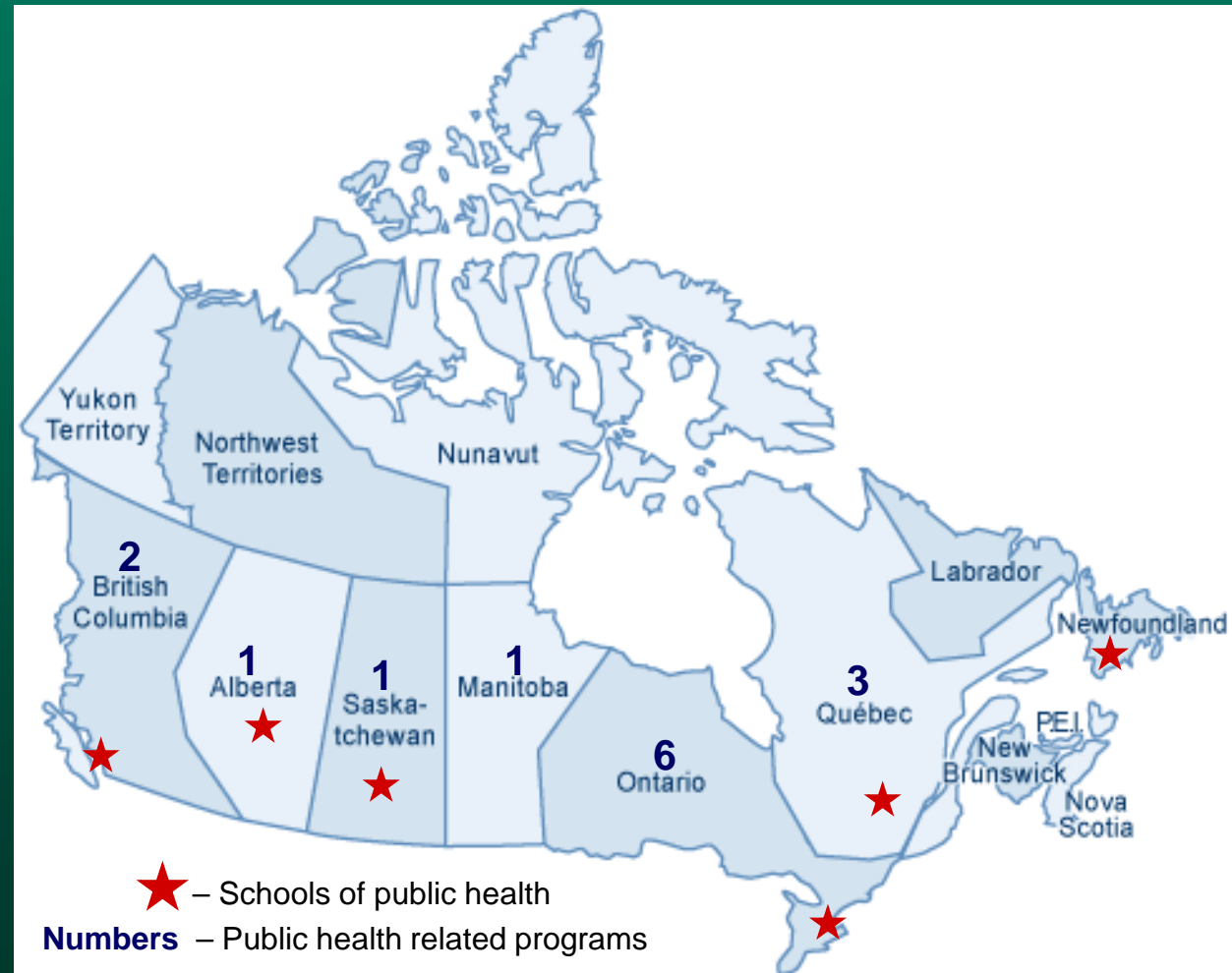
6. *Communication* – (6.3 Mobilize individuals & communities by using appropriate media, community resources & social marketing techniques)

7. *Leadership* – (7.6 Contribute to team & organizational learning to advance public health goals)



What can Canada contribute ?

- Graduate degree programs in public health
- 14 universities offer public health related programs
- 6 Schools of public health





Schools of Public Health offers a greater breadth of specialised streams of applied public health training

MPH	INSTITUTION	UBC	U of A	U of S	Waterloo	U of T	Memorial U	Simon Fraser
	Environmental Health	●	●	●		●	●	●
	Epidemiology & Biostats	●	●	●		●		
	Health Promotion		●					
	Health Policy & Management	●	●	●		●		
	Global Health	●	●			●	●	●
	Rural Public Health			●				
	Veterinary Public Health			●				
	Population Health	●	●	●			●	●
	Socio-behavioural		●	●	●	●		
	Aboriginal Health			●			●	●
	Injury Prevention		●					
	Disease Prevention	●						●
	Collaborative Programs		●			●		



Core courses generally include...

- **Biostatistics**
- **Epidemiology**
- **Environmental health**
- **Health policy**
- **Socio-behavioural foundations**
- **Research methodology**



Degree programs do not focus specifically on CVD or NCD prevention, but many opportunities in these areas are available through:

- Courses in epidemiology, health promotion
- Master's thesis
- Community / field experience
- Practica
- Summer institutes



School of Public Health – U of A

- Formed in March 2006; first school of public health in Canada;
Pan Alberta public health coalition
- An independent faculty
- Graduate programs with 8 core streams, interdisciplinary research programs, and community engagement





Partnership Agreements

Applied Research

- **Healthy Alberta Communities**
 - Demonstration project of the Country-wide Integrated Non-Communicable Disease Intervention Programme (WHO-CINDI)



HEALTHY ALBERTA
COMMUNITIES





Partnership Agreement *Applied Research*

ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH
RESEARCH LABORATORY

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH





Partnership Agreements *Training*

- **Training-Alberta Health services – public health leadership courses as part of continuing education**
- **Training-Joint Indigenous Summer Research Institute**
 - John Hopkins School of Public Health, Health Canada, and the US Department of Health and Human Services
- **Training-International collaborative partnership**
 - Makerere University, Uganda, other MOUs under development

Our Collective Futures

- Limited resources globally
- Collaboration and partnership
- Seamless system of training through distributed learning network...
Virtual public health campus





Some Promising initiatives that can lead to degrees and expand global capacity

- **Virtual Campus for Public Health**
 - Internet based e-learning
 - U Alberta, U Waterloo
 - **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**
 - Europe, Latin America and the United States
 - **Peoples Open Access Education Initiative**
 - **Skills on-line – Public Health Agency of Canada**



Some Promising Initiatives in Chronic Disease Prevention



Thank you



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