

**THE CANADIAN COCHRANE  
NETWORK AND CENTRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
1 April 2005 — 31 March 2006**



**THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®**

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### Introduction

On 1 October 2005, the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCNC) officially relocated from McMaster University to the University of Ottawa. This move was planned following the appointment of the new Director, Jeremy Grimshaw, at the end of 2004. The Centre will now be located with several other Cochrane entities, including the Musculoskeletal Review Group, the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Review Group and the Health Equity Field. Our sincere thanks go to the staff at McMaster, including the Co-Director, Kathie Clark, and the Communications Specialist, Angus Muir, for their dedicated contribution to the CCNC over many years, and their hard work to ensure a smooth transition to the new office. Kathie and Angus have now moved on to other challenges, and an exciting program of work awaits the new staff in Ottawa.

On January 25th, 2006, the CCNC and all the Cochrane entities in Canada were very grateful to be awarded five years of funding from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH). This represents the most sustained funding ever given to The Cochrane Collaboration in Canada, and an exciting opportunity for us to build our program of activities in the coming years. Thanks to all the Canadian Cochrane entities who worked to put this proposal together. Further details about CCNC funding are available on p.10.

### CCNC Goals for 2005-2006

- Goal 1:** Increase the quality, quantity and timely update of Cochrane systematic reviews.
- Goal 2:** Increase the awareness and understanding of The Cochrane Collaboration and the CCNC among potential funders, Affiliate Organizations, and the users of *The Cochrane Library*.
- Goal 3:** Promote the dissemination and uptake of the evidence from Cochrane reviews among potential users of the reviews.
- Goal 4:** Make education and training opportunities for the creation and dissemination of high quality systematic reviews more readily available throughout Canada.
- Goal 5:** Strengthen the Canadian Cochrane Network to ensure an active, equally accessible program of Cochrane-related activities across Canada.

### The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre

The CCNC coordinates the efforts of The Cochrane Collaboration in Canada. The Canadian Cochrane Centre is located at The University of Ottawa, Ontario. The Canadian Cochrane Network is a partnership of 18 Network Sites in universities and regional health authorities, eight Cochrane entities based in Canada, and 21 health professional and consumer Affiliate Organizations.

The core function of a Cochrane Centre is to support active members of the Collaboration, whether as review authors, editors, Review Group Coordinators, Trials Search Coordinators, handsearchers, referees, consumers or members of Fields and Methods Groups. In addition, Cochrane Centres act as a regional focus for the activities of The Cochrane Collaboration in different parts of the world.

The CCNC provides training and support to individual review authors, coordinates funding for Cochrane activities in Canada, and works to promote The Cochrane Collaboration, *The Cochrane Library* and evidence-based health care in Canada. The CCNC collaborates with health researchers, health technology assessment groups, national consumer and health professional organizations, governments and other groups across Canada that share our goals.

## *Our Vision*

The CCNC shares the vision of The Cochrane Collaboration: Healthcare decision-making throughout the world will be informed by high quality, timely research evidence. The Cochrane Collaboration will play a pivotal role in the production and dissemination of this evidence across all areas of health care.

## *Our Mission*

The mission of the CCNC is to foster evidence-based healthcare decision making by identifying and supporting individuals in Canada who wish to become involved with The Cochrane Collaboration, and by promoting the awareness, appreciation, distribution and use of Cochrane systematic reviews of healthcare interventions.

## **Cochrane Entities in Canada**

The CCNC provides support to the group of Cochrane entities that are located in Canada. In addition to coordinating funding, the CCNC provides a communication and liaison role between the groups.

The core business of The Cochrane Collaboration is the production of systematic reviews. There are 50 Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) worldwide engaged in the preparation and updating of reviews. The editorial bases of five of these CRGs are located in Canada. Please visit their websites:

- Back Review Group (Toronto, Ontario) - [www.cochrane.iwh.on.ca](http://www.cochrane.iwh.on.ca)
- Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Review Group (Ottawa, Ontario) - [www.epoc.uottawa.ca](http://www.epoc.uottawa.ca)
- Hypertension Review Group (Vancouver, British Columbia) - [www.ti.ubc.ca/cochrane](http://www.ti.ubc.ca/cochrane)
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Functional Bowel Disorders Review Group (London, Ontario) - [www.cochrane.uottawa.ca/ibd](http://www.cochrane.uottawa.ca/ibd)
- Musculoskeletal Review Group (Ottawa, Ontario) - [www.cochranemsk.org](http://www.cochranemsk.org)

Cochrane Fields focus on broad areas of health care relevant to many CRGs. These areas can include the setting of care, the type of consumer, the type of provider, the type of intervention, or a major division of health care that is too large to be covered by a single CRG. There are two Fields based in Canada:

- Child Health Field (Edmonton, Alberta) - [www.cochranechildhealth.org](http://www.cochranechildhealth.org).
- Health Equity Field (Ottawa, Ontario) - this is a new Field, registered on 27th June 2005 and co-registered with the Campbell Collaboration.

Methods Groups are composed of individuals with an interest and expertise in the science of systematic reviews. They provide advice and support to The Cochrane Collaboration in the development of the methods of systematic reviews and play an important role in ensuring that The Cochrane Collaboration's products adhere to a high standard of quality. There is one methods group based in Canada:

- The Reporting Bias Methods Group is based in Ottawa, Ontario - [www.chalmersresearch.com/rbmj](http://www.chalmersresearch.com/rbmj).

## Results for 2005-2006

### Goal 1: Increase the quality, quantity and timely update of Cochrane systematic reviews

- Canadian activity has been substantial. In 2005, 661 review authors in Canada were working with 46 CRGs worldwide. This is an increase from 519 authors in 2004. Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, review authors in Canada published 19 new reviews, 25 new protocols and 11 review updates in *The Cochrane Library*. Canadian CRGs supported the publication of 24 reviews, 32 protocols and 4 updates during the same period. Canadian lead authors and CRGs are now responsible for 14% of reviews and protocols in *The Cochrane Library*.
- The Child Health Field is working on a number of projects to support the production of high quality reviews, including research on the availability of evidence on intervention outcomes for children, support for reviews on autism spectrum disorder, bursaries for authors working on reviews relevant to children, maintenance of a trials register and research into paediatric search filters.
- The Reporting Bias Methods Group hosted an international meeting of experts on updating systematic reviews in Ottawa from 6-7 March 2006. In June 2005, another meeting was hosted by the RBMG in Ottawa to revise and update the QUOROM Statement on the reporting of systematic reviews. Other projects include: a survey on the use of grey literature in systematic reviews; the role of language of publication in systematic reviews and clinical trials; and the development of a modified version of the Egger test for small-study effects in meta-analyses.
- The Musculoskeletal Group has been actively involved in working groups and committees contributing to the development of Cochrane review methods, such as the Umbrella Review Group, GRADE and the Plain Language Summary Working Group. The editorial team also contributes to improving methodology for addressing issues such as minimally clinically different outcomes in rheumatology through the OMERACT (Outcome Measures in Rheumatology) group.
- To ensure a high standard of support for review authors in Australia, two Canadian Review Groups have established satellite offices in Melbourne: the Musculoskeletal and the EPOC CRGs.
- Representatives of many of the Canadian Cochrane entities and Network Sites attended and presented at the XIII Cochrane Colloquium in Melbourne, Australia, from 22-26 October 2005. Some of the Canadian projects presented there included studies of the effects of including controlled before-and-after studies and interrupted time series designs in systematic reviews, methods of supporting authors to update their reviews, and process evaluations for systematic review authors, editors, entity staff and consumers.
- Anna Farmer, a PhD student working with EPOC, completed a project titled, "Systematic reviews of knowledge translation interventions: contributions of process evaluations and contact with authors". This project was funded by the Canadian Agency for Drugs, Technology in Health, and examined the impact of contacting authors of individual studies on the findings of systematic reviews.
- EPOC staff, editors and authors have begun working on an update of an overview of systematic reviews of continuing education, quality improvement, organisation of care, and financing and reimbursement interventions.

## Goal 2: Increase the awareness and understanding of The Cochrane Collaboration and the CCNC among potential funders, Affiliate Organizations and the users of *The Cochrane Library*

- The major event for 2005 was the 4th Canadian Cochrane Symposium, held in Montréal, Québec. Over 200 people attended the event, including review authors, health professionals, consumers, government representatives and research funders. We were particularly pleased to welcome the largest ever number of French-speaking contributors, including international visitors from French-speaking nations such as Lebanon, Morocco and Switzerland. The Symposium was a great success, allowing the opportunity to showcase and discuss the broad range of activity around systematic reviews in Canada. The Canadian Cochrane Symposium will become an annual event from 2007, to ensure a regular opportunity for communication and exchange. Our grateful thanks go to the four Cochrane Network Sites in Québec, and in particular to Marie Hatem and her colleagues at the University of Montréal, for making this event such a success.
- Introductory workshops and presentations were conducted by Centre and Network Site representatives across Canada during the year. Events were held at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke in Montréal, the Drug Information and Research Centre in Toronto, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario 3rd Biennial International Conference in Markham, the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto, and the Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine at the University of Ottawa. At the CPhA annual conference in Quebec City (May 2005) Susan Bowles presented a workshop to 80 pharmacists entitled "Alzheimer's Disease and The Evidence: Using *The Cochrane Library* to Provide the Best Treatment". EPOC's Review Group Coordinator, Alain Mayhew presented N.E.M.O. (New Evidence with Minimal Obstacles) at the RehabNet Conference, in Ottawa, May, 2005
- Dr. Allan Gotlib, Affiliate Representative for the Canadian Chiropractic Association, raised funds in support of the Centre from 14 chiropractic organizations across Canada. As Editor of the *Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association*, he promoted Cochrane events and ran articles pertaining to systematic reviews, workshops, and the new and updated reviews and protocols from the Back Review Group.
- The CCNC and the other Canadian-based entities maintained websites and mailing lists as vehicles to communicate with others and disseminate information.
- Internationally, the CCNC is responsible for publishing the newsletters of The Cochrane Collaboration. The CCNC produces the biweekly email bulletin CCIInfo, and longer newsletter, *Cochrane News*, which is published three times per year.





### Goal 3: Promote the dissemination and uptake of the evidence from Cochrane reviews among potential users of the reviews

- The Child Health Field is working on a number of innovative dissemination initiatives. The Field is developing plain-language summaries of health evidence for children and their parents, in conjunction with an easy-to-use website to assist parents to access and understand research evidence. For professionals, the Field writes a regular column, 'Evidence for Clinicians', for the Canadian journal *Paediatrics & Child Health*, and plans are under way to publish an online journal, *Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal*, from 2006. The Field is also involved in a formal partnership between the University of Alberta and the University of Ghana to promote evidence-based paediatrics.
- The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board in Ontario is collaborating closely with the Back Group to develop an evidence-based program of care for chronic pain.
- The Musculoskeletal Group now has 56 consumer summaries of Cochrane reviews available on the Arthritis Society website, 19 of which have been translated into French. There were 160,000 website hits on these summaries during 2005, a 60% increase on the previous year. The Group continues to work closely with the arthritis consumer community to disseminate our systematic reviews, to encourage participation of consumers in the review process; and to support their activities through the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance quarterly newsletter and the Bone and Joint Decade newsletter.
- Thanks to funding from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada, residents of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon now have territory-wide access to The Cochrane Library. Kami Kandola and Susan Chatwood of the Northern Network Site conducted an extensive range of activities to promote understanding and use of this resource, including meetings with health professionals, policy and library staff; meetings with local Indigenous groups; and distributing The Cochrane Library on CD to health workers in remote areas without internet access. Two workshops were held to bring together key members of all these stakeholder groups to discuss the health and research needs of Northern communities, with a particular focus on the active involvement of Indigenous peoples.
- Two workshops were held for consumer groups during the year, providing an introduction to evidence-based decision making and The Cochrane Collaboration. The first workshop was held in Toronto, ON, on 4 May 2005, for consumers associated with the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. The second was held in conjunction with the Canadian Cochrane Symposium in Montreal, QC, on 1 December 2006, and incorporated French language components.
- A number of events for policy and decision makers were conducted during the year. A full day workshop on systematic reviews and economic evaluation was conducted for the Manitoba Ministry of Health and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority on 7 June 2005. Seminars were presented to the National Collaborating Centre Program and Advisory Council at the Public Health Agency of Canada, the University of British Columbia, and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.
- The Canadian Pharmacists Association has launched e-Therapeutics, an electronic clinical decision support tool in March 2006. Links to the Cochrane Abstracts and to DARE are highlighted on the front page of this unique evidence-based product. In addition, most of the 120 chapters include references to Cochrane reviews and links to the abstracts.

## Goal 4: Make education and training opportunities for the creation of high quality systematic reviews more readily available throughout Canada

- Three training workshops were conducted for new authors of systematic reviews. Two workshops were held in conjunction with the Canadian Cochrane Symposium in Montreal on 30 September to 1 December 2005, running simultaneously in English and French. The third workshop was hosted by the University of Toronto Network Site on 29 March 2006. These workshops provided training to 80 new authors.
- David Moher of the Reporting Bias Methods Group provided a three-day training workshop on issues of methodology and systematic reviews to the Chinese Cochrane Centre. In addition, the Methods Group co-ordinated the WHO EBM-HTA Fellowship Training Workshop, introducing researchers and policy makers from the Chinese government to concepts and tools of evidence-based medicine in March 2006.
- Information on Cochrane systematic reviews and methods is increasingly incorporated into tertiary curricula, again with the collaboration of the Cochrane Network Sites. David Moher of the Reporting Bias Methods Group led a graduate course in systematic reviews for the Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine at the University of Ottawa. In collaboration with Gord Guyatt, David is also developing an undergraduate course in evidence-based medicine for medical students.
- The Child Health Field has formed a partnership with the Australian Research Alliance for Child and Youth (ARACY), a national scheme to improve research partnerships and outcomes for children. The Field will provide training and mentorship for systematic reviewers in Australia.



Participants in the Arctic Health Research Network think tank



The CCNC website at [www.cochrane.uottawa.ca](http://www.cochrane.uottawa.ca)



## Goal 5: Strengthen the Canadian Cochrane Network to ensure an active, equally accessible program of Cochrane related activities across Canada

- The 18 Cochrane Network Sites continued to provide local support and education activities for their members during 2006. Network Site representatives continued to generously donate their time to coordinate Site Group meetings, maintain websites and provide other informal support for Cochrane contributors in their area.
- Site Representatives were actively involved in planning and teaching training events on behalf of the CCNC, as well as local educational activities. Frances Giberson and Nicole Letourneau at the new University of New Brunswick Network Site in Fredericton hosted a Network Site planning session on 13 May 2005, with the visiting mentorship of Dorothy Forbes of the University of Saskatchewan Network Site. On 20 May 2006 they conducted a lunchtime session with Dr. Gail Storr, highlighting systematic reviews on breastfeeding. Grace Patterson and Michael Graven at the Dalhousie Network Site hosted a lunchtime session with Dr. Brian Rowe of the Cochrane Airways Group.
- The Canadian Cochrane Symposium was an excellent opportunity to promote The Cochrane Collaboration among the universities in Quebec. Coordinated by the four Quebec Network Sites, and welcoming the largest number of French-speaking participants of any previous event, this Symposium initiated a number of ongoing projects for Francophone contributors. In particular, the Quebec Network Sites played an important role in planning sessions for the Cochrane Francophone Network, a group representing French-speaking contributors from around the world, which will soon be a formal entity of The Cochrane Collaboration. This initiative will promote access to resources and greater collaboration with Francophone researchers and decision makers.
- The CCNC Advisory Board met at the Annual General Meeting on 4 December 2005 to review the year's activities and to discuss a proposal to revise the governance of the CCNC. Under the new model, the current CCNC Advisory Board will be replaced with a smaller group of high-level advisors from outside The Cochrane Collaboration, who will act to provide strategic guidance to the CCNC. Members of the current Board, including representatives of the Canadian Cochrane entities, Network Sites and Affiliate Organizations, will form a stakeholder group that will continue to make a valuable contribution to our program of activities. Formal appointments to the new Advisory Board will be made during 2006.



Team Canada plays lawn bowls for the Colloquium Cup in Melbourne



The Cochrane Library at [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com)

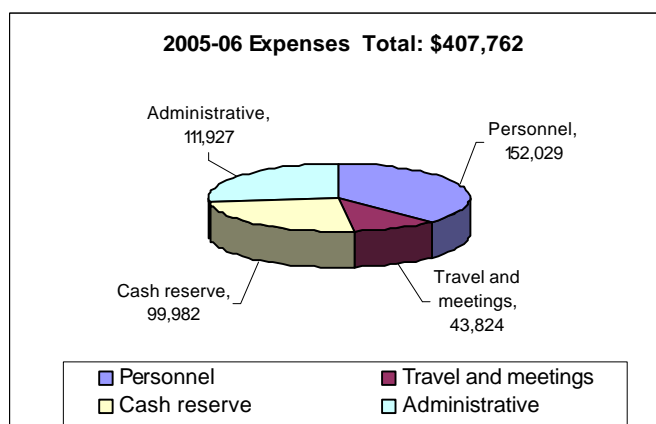
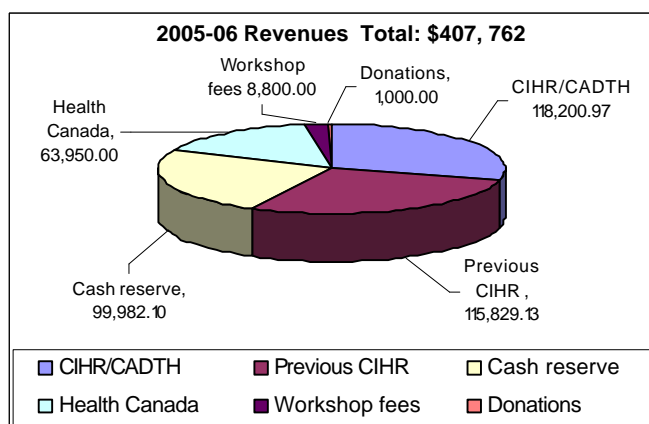
## Summary of Revenue and Expenses

On January 25th, 2006, the CCNC and all the Cochrane entities in Canada were grateful to officially awarded five years of funding. This represents the most sustained support ever given to The Cochrane Collaboration in Canada, and an exciting opportunity for us. The funding organizations are:

- the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR);
- the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH);
- the CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research;
- the CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis;
- the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health;
- the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health;
- the CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes; and
- the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity.



The CCNC also received bridge funding from CIHR, Health Canada, and donations from 14 Canadian chiropractic organizations. In kind contributions were received from the Institute for Work & Health, McMaster University, Mount Sinai Hospital, the University of Ottawa and the 18 institutions that host the Canadian Cochrane Network Sites. A small amount of revenue was generated from training workshops to recover the direct costs. In order to ensure future needs are considered, a carry-over reserve fund has been created. For the first 2 years of the 5 year funding, the CCNC will be able to maintain the reserve fund in order to cover the anticipated deficit situation in the last three years. This reserve will ensure that the Centre can address the future costs of the same level of service that it supports. The Centre's revenue and expenditure are summarized below:



## Acknowledgments

The staff of the Canadian Cochrane Centre would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who contributed their time, energy and talents to the CCNC in 2005-06. We are very grateful to those institutions and organizations that provided financial and in-kind support during the year, and to the financial and technical staff who support our work. We are particularly grateful to those individuals who volunteered their time to teach our training workshops and organise our events across Canada this year, and in particular to Marie Hatem for her role in coordinating the Canadian Cochrane Symposium in Montreal.

Special thanks go to Kathie Clark and Angus Muir, the outgoing staff of the Centre office at McMaster University, for their hard work in ensuring a smooth transition to our new location in Ottawa, and for their ongoing dedication to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration.

## The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre Advisory Board

### Chair of the Advisory Board

Dr. Andreas Laupacis, MD, MSc, FRCPC

### Canadian Cochrane Centre

Director: Jeremy Grimshaw, MD, MSc, FRCPC, FAAP

Co-Director: Kathie Clark, RN, PhD (outgoing)

### Network Sites

University of British Columbia  
University of Calgary

University of Alberta  
University of Saskatchewan

University of Manitoba  
University of Western Ontario  
McMaster University

University of Toronto

Queen's University

University of Ottawa

McGill University  
Université de Montréal  
Université de Sherbrooke  
Université Laval  
Dalhousie University

Memorial University

Arminée Kazanjian, BA, MA, PhD  
Laura Ghali, PhD (outgoing)  
Roger Thomas, MD, PhD, CCFP, MRCGP  
Diane Lorenzetti, BA, MLIS (incoming)  
Joanne Homik, MD  
Janet Bangma, MLIS, MAEd  
Vanina Dal Bello-Haas, BScPT, MEd, PhD (incoming)  
Dorothy Forbes, RN, PhD (outgoing)  
Michael Moffatt, MD, FRCPC  
George Rice, MD  
Janet Pinelli, RN, DNS  
Amanda Symington, RN, MHSc  
Joseph Beyene, PhD (incoming)  
Prakeshkumar Shah, MD, MRCP (incoming)  
Rebecca Wong, MD, MBChB, MSc, FRCPC (outgoing)  
Janet Yamada RN, MSc (outgoing)  
Phil Hahn, MSc  
Tanveer Towheed, BA, MD, MSc, FRCPC, FACR, DABIM  
Peter Tugwell, MD, MSc, FRCPC  
George Wells, MSc, PhD  
Roland Grad, MD, CM, MSc  
Marie Hatem, MSc, PhD  
Sophie Michaud, MD, MPH, CSPQ, FRCPC  
France Légaré, MD, PhD, CCMF, FCMF  
Michael Graven, MD, MSc, MPH, FAAP (incoming)  
Alexandra Howlett, MD, FRCPC (outgoing)  
Grace Paterson, BSc, MA, MSc  
Stephen Bornstein, BA, MA, PhD (incoming)  
Sandra LeFort, RN, MN, PhD (outgoing)  
Donna Moralejo, RN, PhD (outgoing)

### Fields

Child Health Field  
Health Equity Field

Terry Klassen, MD, MSc, FRCPC  
Peter Tugwell, MD, MSc, FRCPC

## Methods Groups

Reporting Bias Methods Group                      David Moher, MSc, PhD

## Cochrane Review Groups

Back Group	Claire Bombardier, MD, FRCPC
Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group	Jeremy Grimshaw, MBChB, PhD, FRCGP
Hypertension Group	James Wright, MD, PhD, FRC
Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Functional Bowel Disorders Group	John W.D. McDonald, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Musculoskeletal Group	Peter Tugwell, MD, MSc, FRCPC

## Affiliate Organizations

L'agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé	Véronique Déry, MD, MSc
Arthritis Society	Dennis Jeanes, BA
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists	Laurie Snider, PhD, OT(C)
Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists	Rosemary Martino, MSc, MA, S-LP(C), CCC-SLP
Canadian Cancer Society	Heather Logan, RN, BScN, MHSc
Canadian Chiropractic Association	Allan Gotlib, DC
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health	Jill Sanders, PhD
Canadian Dental Association	Euan Swan, BSc, DDS, DDPH
Canadian Health Libraries Association	Jessie McGowan, MLIS, AHIP
Canadian Institute for Health Information	Serge Taillon, BSc, MHA
	Anne McFarlane, MA, MSc
	Marc White, BA, PhD
Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability	
Canadian Medical Association	Todd Watkins, BSc, MD, CCFP
Canadian Nurses Association	Carole Estabrooks, RN, PhD
Canadian Pharmacists Association	Carol Repchinsky, BSP
Canadian Physiotherapy Association	Dawn Burnett, PT, PhD (incoming)
	Maria Judd, BSc, MSc, PT (outgoing)
	John Feightner, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care	
Canadian Women's Health Network	Madeline Boscoe, RN, DU
College of Family Physicians of Canada	Walter Rosser, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MRCPG
Consumers' Association of Canada	Jean Jones, CM, LLD, MSW
Dietitians of Canada	Jayne Thirsk, RD, PhD
Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies	Andreas Laupacis, MD, MSc, FRCPC
The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada	John McDonald, MD, PhD, FRCPC