

Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNNTD)

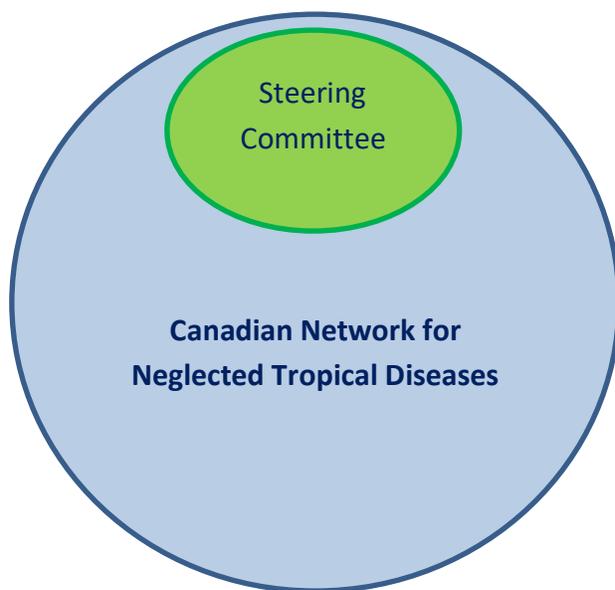
Réseau Canadien pour les maladies tropicales négligées

Terms of Reference

The Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNNTD) is a group of Canadians and Canadian organizations who are interested in uniting to combat neglected tropical diseases.

Vision: Neglected no longer: Mobilising Canadian action to end suffering from NTDs

Mission: Our mission is to establish a vibrant network of interested Canadian individuals and organisations who will work together to generate interest and support from the Canadian public about NTDs, to provide insight and support to integrate NTD action into existing Canadian global health efforts and to mobilise resources for research and programme implementation.



Background:

Since the London Declaration was signed in 2012, there has been an increased global effort to prevent and control neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Guided by the WHO Roadmap on NTDs, these efforts have been driven by the work of donors, pharmaceutical companies, researchers, NGOs, national governments and concerned individuals. Progress has been made since 2012, with an average of 1 billion NTD treatments distributed every year. Despite significant gains, much remains to be done in order to reduce the disease burden of NTDs globally and to ensure that *no one is left behind*. The introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016 provide a clear indicator (3.3) for the reduction of NTDs: “end the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases by 2030.” NTDs overlap with other SDG indicators, including poverty reduction (SDG1), hunger (SDG2), gender equity (SDG5) and others.

Canadian engagement and contribution to the global NTD efforts underway is urgently needed. Canadian experience and commitment to themes such as gender, equity, poverty reduction and concern for vulnerable peoples as seen in current Canadian development projects can fill an important gap.

The Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNNTD) strives to engage decision-makers, mobilize resources and highlight opportunities for Canadians to actively contribute to this effort. Many Canadians and Canadian organizations are already devoting their time and energy to projects that contribute to the reduction of NTDs, but they may not be measuring this indicator. In addition, Canadian projects can leverage the free NTD drugs available to maximise the reach and impact of their existing maternal, neonatal and child health and sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes. The CNNTD will offer Canadians and Canadian organizations a platform to accelerate collaboration in order to produce a greater impact on NTDs and to provide a stronger voice on the national stage.

Terms of Reference:

- To provide the necessary framework for Canadians and Canadian organizations to work together to combat NTDs.
- To offer opportunities for Canadians and Canadian organizations to increase their commitment to combat NTDs around the world.
- To share relevant information about NTDs to members of the network.
- To explore partnerships which could bring added value to current contributions of network members.
- To promote the need to address NTDs globally at various levels and in various fora.

- To support a governance structure for CNNTD for effective and efficient representation, management, accountability and sustainability.

Governance structure:

- The CNNTD is a network of members. Membership will be open to all Canadians and Canadian organizations who support the vision and mission of CNNTD and express interest in addressing NTDs. Commitment to the mission and vision of CNNTD is required. Members will be given a two year term, subject to renewal. There is no cost to being a member in the network. Organizations will be included as members based on the commitment of the organization's signing authority.

The CNNTD is supported by effect:hope and the Bruyère Research Institute.

The activities of CNNTD will be determined by a Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will:

- Provide strategic direction to the CNNTD.
- Represent CNNTD membership in relevant fora.
- Be a resource for CNNTD members.
- Support partnerships which strengthen Canadian involvement in combating NTDs.
- Advocate for increased resources for Canadians to combat NTDs.
- Develop a strategic plan.
- Review the operational plan and budget plan developed by the Secretariat (comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer) and recommend changes or approve.
- Monitor and document progress on a periodic basis.

The membership of the Steering Committee will comprise 6 to 14 individuals representing the diversity of the network. It will include the Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer who will be a non-voting member. Steering Committee members will serve a term of two years, with a potential of renewal twice, for a maximum of 6 years. The members of the Steering Committee will select a Chair and Vice Chair, with terms of two years. Renewal of these positions will be allowed only once, for a maximum period of 4 years. The Steering Committee will meet four times per year, either in person or virtually. In the inaugural year, the Steering Committee will include 9 to 13 members whose visibility within the NTD community is widely recognized, as well as the Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer. Subsequent members of the Steering Committee will be chosen by nomination from the members in the network. The process of nomination will be determined by the inaugural Steering Committee.

Meeting quorum will be set at 50%. Governance of the Steering Committee will be by consensus. For urgent matters, *ad hoc* meetings may be convened virtually. A report of all Steering Committee meetings will be distributed to CNNTD members. The Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer is responsible for: 1) carrying out the administrative functioning of the Steering Committee; 2) developing an operational plan with budget plan 3) managing the budget and relevant financial reporting tasks; and 4) carrying out all information and communication activities within the CNNTD and its members, as determined by the Steering Committee.

Specific thematic working groups areas

Currently, CNNTD is expected to have two thematic working areas, one for Canadian NTD research and the other for civil society organisations (CSOs) working in NTDs or with a desire to incorporate NTDs into their present work plans. As the CNNTD grows, additional thematic working areas are possible (e.g. nutrition and NTDs, stigma and discrimination and NTDs, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), mental health and NTDs, NTDs which are addressed through Preventative Chemotherapy by Mass Drug Administration (PC MDAs), NTDs which are addressed by Innovative and Intensified Disease Management and Case Management (IDM / CM)). These will be determined by the Steering Committee in consultation with members.