

Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNNTD)
Réseau Canadien pour les maladies tropicales négligées

Terms of Reference

CNNTD is a group of Canadians, Canadian organizations and international supporters who are interested in uniting to combat neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Our vision is for NTDs to be neglected no longer. Our mission is to advocate and support Canada to take action to end suffering from NTDs.

To achieve this mission, we seek to generate interest and support from the Canadian public about NTDs, and advocate for the elimination of NTDs to be a key part of Canada's global health priorities. Our network of global health practitioners and researchers provide world-class insight and support for Canadian policy on NTDs. We believe that addressing NTDs is the missing piece to improved global health. Canadian investment to control NTDs will help reduce global health inequities and establish more resilient health systems. Our full strategy is included as appendix 1 to this document.

Background:

Since the London Declaration of 2012, there has been an increasing global effort to eliminate NTDs. Guided by the WHO Road Map for NTDs, progress is steadily being made with an average of 1 billion NTD treatments distributed every year. Despite significant gains, much remains to be done to reduce the effect of NTDs globally and ensure that no one is left behind. Alongside WHO NTD elimination targets, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) provide a clear indicator and target for the reduction of NTDs by 2030 (SDG3.3).

Canadian engagement and contribution to the global NTD efforts is urgently needed. Canada's special experience with humanitarian and development projects which address gender equity and poverty reduction contributes a valuable perspective to NTD programming and research which is currently missing.

Governance structure:

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 an interest in addressing NTDs. International members who support the work of CNNTD will also be accepted. Commitment to the mission and vision of CNNTD is required. Organizations will be included as members based on the commitment of the organization's signing authority. There is no cost to membership of the network.

The activities of CNNTD will be determined by a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will support a governance structure for CNNTD to enable effective and efficient representation, management, accountability, and sustainability.

The Steering Committee will:

- Provide strategic direction to the CNNTD.
- Represent CNNTD membership in relevant fora.
- Be a resource for CNNTD members.
- 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 Advocacy and Policy Officer).
- Monitor and document progress on a periodic basis.

The membership of the Steering Committee will comprise 6 to 13 individuals with voting rights, representing the diversity of the network. One additional place may be taken by the 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. New 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 Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will meet four times per year, either in person or virtually. Meeting quorum will be set at 50%. Decisions of the Steering Committee will be made by consensus. For urgent matters, *ad hoc* meetings may be convened virtually. A report of all Steering Committee meetings will be provided to all CNNTD members upon request.

Appendix 1

Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases Strategy 2020-21



Our vision and mission

What is our priority?

Neglected no longer. For Canada to take action to end suffering from NTDs.

Our message

Why is it important?

Addressing NTDs is the missing piece to improved global health.
Canadian investment to control NTDs helps reduce global health inequities and establish more resilient health systems.

Our outcomes

What will we achieve?

-  Canadian support of WHO NTD roadmap 2021-2030; prioritization of NTDs as a key initiative under Canada's global health strategy, underpinned by the Feminist International Assistance Policy.
-  Inclusion of NTDs in Global Affairs Canada's upcoming programs and activities.
-  Increased visibility in Canada of NTDs as a global health concern.
-  Canadian priorities, expertise and research are promoted in the global community.
-  A strong network of global health practitioners, partners and researchers who provide insight and support to CNNTD work and Canadian policy on NTDs.

Our activities

How will we achieve it?

1. Strategic use of social and digital media to highlight the need for Canadian investment in NTDs
2. Regularly engage with NGOs and researchers whose work addresses NTDs
3. Maintain an active and visible presence in the global health community in Canada
4. Host and participate in panel events, conference presentations and roundtables
5. Support the Canadian launch and commitment to WHO NTD roadmap
6. Increase membership of CNNTD and drive member engagement
7. Actively seek opportunities to meet and engage with public sector officials, Ministers and MPs

Our audience

Who will we influence?

- Minister for International Development
- Minister for La Francophonie
- MPs and Senators
- Staffers of MPs and Senators
- Global Affairs Canada officials
- Canadian NTD scientists and researchers
- Canadian NGO partners
- International NTD partners
- Canadian public

