

How the National Lung Health Framework's Database Can Help You

Many programs and initiatives currently listed in the National Lung Health Framework's **Respiratory Resources Canada (RRC)** database promote strong partnerships, develop and apply best practices, and may be implemented in your area.

Educators and health care professionals are eager to cooperate by sharing their experiences. Your health region, organization, or program may benefit from the experience of others. By connecting with successful programs, children's programs can be established more quickly and more successfully than if they were developed in isolation.

- Lung disease affects one in five Canadians (six million in total)
- One Canadian dies every 20 minutes due to lung disease

The Challenge

Today, lung disease

- affects 6 million Canadians and costs over 15 billion dollars in direct and indirect costs
- is responsible for the majority of emergency room visits, and
- may shape the lives of over half of Canadians (57%) who are current or former smokers and are at increased risk of lung disease

The impact on Canadians is huge. To complicate matters, lung disease and other respiratory conditions encompass many conditions and illnesses, and are affected by the air we breathe.

The Response

The **National Lung Health Framework** is a Canadian initiative designed to improve lung health across the country by promoting collaborative and coordinated action among health care professionals, policy makers, researchers, clinicians, advocates and others.

People committed to working within lung health today know that for all people living in Canada to attain equitable access to the benefits of respiratory health, we must eliminate barriers to care, management, and disease prevention by addressing the social, economic, environmental and cultural determinants of health.

Progress can happen more quickly and effectively when we come together and build partnerships, share best practices, and encourage the development of supportive policy initiatives.

The National Lung Health Framework promotes and facilitates partnerships, alliances and collaborations that cross sectors, regions, jurisdictions, and fields of practice.

HIGHLIGHTED INITIATIVES

Patient Support Programs are available in various places in Canada. Here is a small sample of successful programs in action, from the **Respiratory Resources Canada** database:

Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Alberta

The Clean Air Strategic Alliance is a multi-stakeholder partnership, composed of representatives selected by industry, government and non-government organizations, which recommends strategies to assess and improve air quality in Alberta.

- Stakeholders may not have all their needs met, but CASA's purpose is to find the optimal solution that is within the best interests of everyone.
- Recommendations from the group's consensus process are likely to be more innovative and longer lasting than those reached through traditional negotiation processes.

- Representatives from government, industry and non-government organizations actively participate on all CASA groups and teams.
- Comprehensive Air Quality Management System, or CAMS, is CASA's unique decision-making tool, which clearly describes the criteria and steps used by the CASA board.

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HIGHLIGHTED INITIATIVES continued

Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals (CRHP) National

The Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals (CRHP) is the Lung Association's multidisciplinary allied health professional section. This unique group welcomes nurses, respiratory therapists, cardio-pulmonary physiotherapists, pharmacists, and other allied health professionals working in the respiratory field.

- Retired professionals and students can be associate members
- Members can access Research Grants and Fellowships, Student Excellence Awards, regional funding grants, and discounted registration fees at CRHP sponsored events like the Canadian Respiratory Conference
- Communicates through membership publications: an online subscription to the Canadian Respiratory Journal and quarterly CRHP members' newsletter: Airwaves; monthly CRHP membership electronic bulletin

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PETRA – PEI Tobacco Reduction Alliance Prince Edward Island

Members of the Alliance work together to support, implement and evaluate the goals related to preventing tobacco use among Island youth; encouraging and helping smokers to quit; and protecting the public by promoting healthy environments and eliminating exposure to second hand smoke

- Composed of government and non-government organizations concerned with the health, social and economic consequences of tobacco use
- Coordinate sharing of tobacco control information
- Interventions have led to successful programs in cessation, prevention, protection, and de-normalization of tobacco use.
- Members rely on each other's expertise to ensure an evidence-based, balanced, and integrated approach to efforts no matter who takes on the leadership role.

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Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) nationwide

A unique partnership between Health Canada, Environment Canada, provincial and municipal governments and non-government organizations.

- Available in select locations in nine provinces, this tool enables Canadians to take steps to protect themselves from the health risks associated with air pollution
- The AQHI is a 1-10+ scale, showing the level of risk and associated health messages for both general and vulnerable populations

- Users “self-calibrate” their own symptoms to the AQHI levels
- Interactive website at www.airhealth.ca provides local AQHI conditions and forecasts, as well as informational resources

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RQAM – Le Réseau québécois de l'asthme et de la maladie pulmonaire obstructive chronique Quebec

Provides interdisciplinary training and advisory services to stakeholders of the health system, promotes synergy and sharing experiences in order to optimize self-management of illness and well-being of people asthma and COPD.

- RQAM provides members with online continuing education opportunities.

Strategic choices are made based on:

- Rigor in terms of professionalism and quality;
- Compliance in terms of humanity, responsiveness and availability;
- Equity in terms of integrity;
- Collaboration in terms of partnership and synergy;
- Representativeness.

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RESPTrec® All provinces except Quebec

An effective partnership amongst respiratory health experts, health care providers, the Lung Associations across the country and industry with the goal of improving the quality of care for asthma and COPD patients.

- National professional development program for health care providers in Asthma, COPD, and Spirometry prepares participants for national certification exam
- Formal partnerships for program and curriculum development: Lung Associations of Saskatchewan and Manitoba; Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS); Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals (CRHP); Family Physicians Airways Group of Canada (FPAGC); educators; and writers
- Less-formal partnerships with all provincial Lung Associations; Canadian Network for Respiratory Care; National pharmacy organization
- Other partnerships with pharmaceutical industry and health regions
- SK Lung provides administration across the country

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How You Can Make a Difference

If you would like to help make a difference and improve the lung health of Canadians there are things you can do.

Promote what is happening in your field and in your community. Share information about successful activities with others across Canada through the **Respiratory Resources Canada** database. The information will be seen by people across the country working in respiratory health.

Make it happen. Have you wanted to start a much-needed initiative in your community and were not sure where to get started or how to make it happen? Make use of **Respiratory Resources Canada**. It is a searchable database where you can find out what is happening all across Canada. You can also use the database to connect with individuals who can provide you with helpful information and share their own successes.

Go to www.lunghealthframework.ca for more information on the database and what it can do for you.

The National Lung Health Framework is chaired by and housed at The Lung Association, with the support of a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee.

Working Together Makes a Difference

- I have no doubt that we would not be where we are today with tobacco control on PEI if it were not for the diverse and dedicated group who put aside personal agendas to work together. We work together; we share information and insights. The partnership works so well, we just keep coming back for more!*
– Joanne Ings, PETRA Member

- All who have been involved with RESPTrec© feel a sense of ownership and demonstrate a desire to make this a premier respiratory educator course in Canada. RESPTrec© Trainers are highly respected by their peers and are recognized as leaders in respiratory health. RESPTrec© has brought together national and international expertise, and has been endorsed by major Canadian respiratory health organizations.*
Jan Haffner, RESPTrec©
Executive Director

