



# BC Child and Youth Health Research Network Strategic Planning 2006

January 3, 2007

DRAFT #6



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## CYHRNET BACKGROUND

*CYHRNet is one of eight Health of Population Networks, created to facilitate the development of a new, more integrated and collaborative research environment for BC's child and youth health researchers.*

### Steering Committee Direction

With funding support from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR), the BC Child and Youth Health Research Network (CYHRNet) is one of eight Health of Population networks, created to facilitate the development of a new, more integrated and collaborative research environment for BC's child and youth health researchers.

This purpose is key to increasing the capacity of BC researchers to compete for federal and international funding, and, in the longer term, to improving the health outcomes of the children and youth of this province and beyond our borders.

Through CYHRNet's initial efforts to expand research collaboration, the members of the Steering Committee sought mechanisms that would serve to:

1. Identify areas of existing expertise and emerging teams in the community of child and youth health researchers in BC

2. Facilitate networking activities among existing teams and foster emerging teams of child and youth health researchers
3. Bring together child and youth health researchers from diverse areas of research expertise, disciplines, and regions of the province in a fall workshop
4. Identify unmet needs in the community of child and youth health researchers in BC, as identified by and aligned with the direction of the Ministry of Health and the Michael Smith Foundation
5. Identify supportive activities that will lead to increases in the number and quality of grant proposal submissions to funding agencies.
6. Identify activities of the Network that could improve building of interdisciplinary collaborations
7. Build capacity around priority research themes and methods that reflect existing expertise and interests of the BC child and youth health research community

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## CYHRNET RESEARCH FOCUS

*(These are examples, this is not an exhaustive list)*

*Source: October 2005  
CYHRNet Workshop*

CYHRNet strives to collaborate with other MSFHR networks to ensure a sustained focus on infants, children and youth. Research efforts have tended to focus on the following:

1. Health Services Management and Continuum of Care
2. Acute Diseases
3. Intentional and Unintentional injuries
4. Disabilities and Chronic Disease
5. Mental Health
6. Aboriginal and Immigrant Health
7. Social Determinants of health
8. Orthopedic Concerns

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## CYHRNET MISSION

The **CYHRNet Mission** is *to improve the health and well being of children and youth in BC, across Canada and beyond.*

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## STATEMENT

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### CYHRNET MANDATE

The **CYHRNet Mandate** is *to promote and facilitate research on key transitions in the development of children and youth.*

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### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

As illustrated in Figure 1 below, the strategic mission of CYHRNet is aligned with MSFHR’s strategic mission for the Health of Population Networks and the Ministries of Health, Children and Family Development, and Education

**Figure 1: Strategic Alignment**

<b>Provincial Health Strategic Mission</b>	<b>Ministry of Children and Family Development</b>  To promote and develop capacity of families and communities to care for and protect vulnerable children and youth, and to maximize potential of every child in BC by supporting healthy child development	<b>Ministry of Health</b>  To guide and enhance the province’s health services to ensure British Columbians are supported in their efforts to maintain and improve their health.	<b>Ministry of Education</b>  To set the legal, financial, curricular, and accountability frameworks so as to enable all learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous, sustainable economy.
<b>Population Health Strategic Mission</b>	<b>MSFHR Mission</b>  To lead, partner and serve as a catalyst to build BC’s capacity for excellence in clinical, biomedical, health services and population health research.		
<b>CYHRNet Strategic Mission</b>	<b>CYHRNet Mission</b>  To improve the health and well being of children and youth in BC, across Canada and beyond		

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### 2007-2009 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

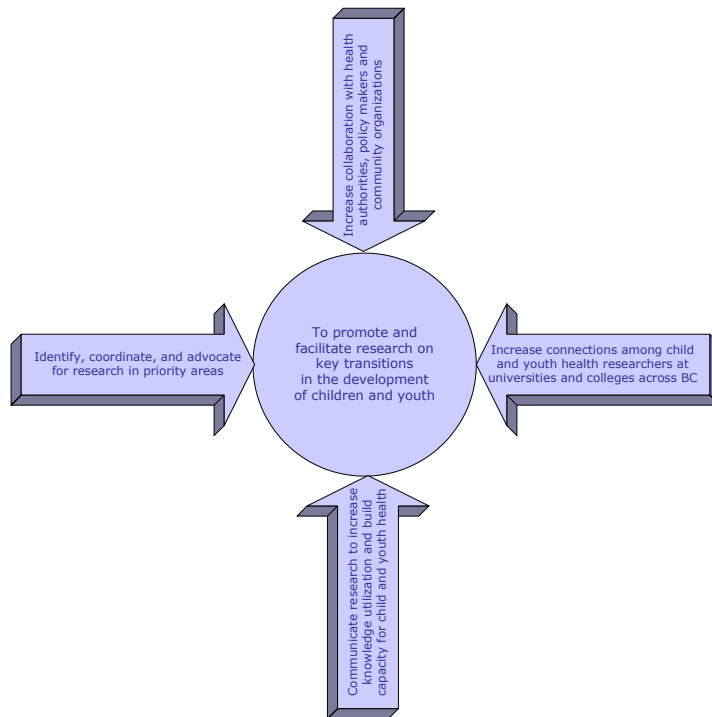
*The strategic directions have been developed in consultation with the CYHRNet Steering Committee and the Membership*

CYHRNet has identified four strategic directions supports CYHRNet’s mandate. The strategic initiatives have been developed in consultation with the CYHRNet Steering Committee and the Membership. The four strategic directions are as follows:

1. Increase collaboration with health authorities, policy makers and community organizations
2. Increase connections among child and youth health researchers at universities and colleges across BC
3. Communicate research to increase knowledge utilization and build capacity for child and youth health
4. Identify, coordinate, and advocate for priority research

**Figure 2: 2007-2009 Strategic Directions**

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**Strategic Initiative #1**  
*Increase collaboration with health authorities, policy makers and community organizations*

**Objectives:**

1. Partner with universities and health authorities to identify individuals that should participate in knowledge translation activities
2. Facilitate the exchange between policy makers research needs to the research community's expertise
3. Facilitate communication of research finding to policy makers
4. Establish inter-sectoral teams in specific areas of child and youth health research
5. Decrease the boundaries in child and youth health research among health authorities and policy makers

**Strategic Initiative #2**  
*Increase connections among child and youth health researchers at universities and colleges across BC*

**Objectives:**

1. Create a colloquium/think tank that will attract and retain stimulating, skilled, and creative researchers across BC
2. Leverage more research funding from government and other funding sources (to prepare team grants) to promote student involvement in networking activities
3. Provide funding for research infrastructure at BC campuses

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**Strategic Initiative #3**

*Communicate research to increase knowledge utilization and build capacity for child and youth health*

**Objectives:**

1. Facilitate the presentation of research workshops throughout BC
2. Develop infrastructure to communicate with health authorities, policy makers, and practitioners

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**Strategic Initiative #4**

*Identify, coordinate, and advocate for research in priority areas*

**Objectives:**

1. Identify child and youth health researchers in BC
2. Promote research in priority areas (aligned with government and MSFHR priorities)
3. Promote interdisciplinary collaborative research

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**MEASURING PERFORMANCE**

The strategic initiatives will be evaluated for their effectiveness in enabling CYHRNet to achieve its mission and mandate. Improvement outcomes (targets) have been developed for each action item identified for each of the four strategic directions. As CYHRNet moves forward to achieve its strategic directions over the next three years, planning and development, implementation, and sustainability actions will need to be considered. The actions and outcomes are as follows:

**Increase Collaboration with Health Authorities, Policy Makers, and Community Organizations**

Action Items	Improvement Outcomes
Establish government research counterpart relationships	Determine contact; initiate 1 meeting with each counterpart; determine research mandate and deliverables; Determine areas for collaboration and initiate plan Invite the government counterpart to be a keynote speaker at a CYHRNet forum
Ensure the participation of senior level government staff in research collaboration initiatives	At least 2 senior level government (at least Director or ADM level) to be involved in 1 CYHRNet led collaborative initiative per year
Encourage and work with government to develop succession plans to decrease institutional memory loss	CYHRNet Co-leaders to initiate a meeting with 1-2 senior government staff (Director or ADM level) to promote CYHRNet and discuss succession planning during the meeting with each party committing to specific deliverables.
Knowledge transfer workshops with representation from the research community, HA's, and policy makers	At least 5 established HA researchers presenting at 1-2 CYHRNet led workshops per year with practice leaders and clinicians in attendance
Survey members to determine researcher level priorities	CYHRNet to develop a survey to send to all members every two years that includes questions related to research priorities
Understand and use the same language government uses	Co-leaders to ask for sample business cases used to promote similar research initiatives and to ask senior government staff during meetings what type of language they are looking for and for any feedback on current reports, proposals, etc.

***Increase connections among child and youth health researchers across universities and colleges in BC***

Determine government research priorities	Co-leaders to present exhaustive list of CYHRNet research priorities and ask for direct feedback on which initiatives are most closely aligned with Ministry research priorities
Develop teams based on government research priority and researcher goals	CYHRNet to ensure that there is a contact person within each research team to initiate contact and report back on progress on the initiative twice a year
Communicate the information decision makers want and need to know, such as outcomes, cost saving impact of research, cost effective prevention and treatment, value of child and youth health interventions	CYHRNet to conduct workshops co-led by facilitator(s) with research and business background to inform research on how to present their research in a method that will be compelling to administrators and clinicians
Establish knowledge transfer roles within universities and health authorities and develop forums for knowledge exchange	CYHRNet to create an inventory of the portion of grant funds spent on knowledge translation and create workshop opportunities for researchers to deliver on the KT requirements associated with the grant
Develop consistent access to administrative data sets	CYHRNet to schedule 1-2 meetings per year with Senior government staff to determine access requirements and empirically demonstrate the need for consistency in accessing data (consider the costs associated with inconsistency, inaccurate data, and having to recreate data). CYHRNet to encourage this topic to be on all relevant meeting agendas
Increase Federal partnerships	Success in the CIHR partnership for validation of child health indicators

Promote previous work and communicate current funding opportunities	Create funding opportunities for researchers to promote their work (through travel grants) for 5 conferences per year, for a total of at least 25 research teams
Develop conference, teleconference, and online forums to increase knowledge transfer in the areas of literature reviews, methodology, and high priority areas of interest	CYHRNet to establish 5 forums per year that focus on literature reviews, methodology, and high priority areas of interests, with a minimum of 25 participants
Convene interdisciplinary experts for consensus papers on key issues related to child and youth health	CYHRNet to provide funding opportunities for a minimum of 10 interdisciplinary experts to attend a series of at least 2 specialized forums per year
Ensure that students receive grant funding to attend workshops	Ensure 5-10 students receive funding for each workshop
Evaluate outcomes from previous grants to understand the impact of collaborative grants	CYHRNet to create an inventory of funds spent and evaluate the added value of CYHRNet funding to the research outcomes
Utilize Network facilitators to travel between teams to build cross university / cross setting / cross disciplinary expertise	CYHRNet to engage 1-2 researcher facilitators to travel between a minimum of 5 teams. Research to be presented at a CYHRNet hosted workshop
Engage and support practitioners and clinicians in research by promoting their work	CYHRNet to invite practitioners and clinicians to speak at conferences and provide funding for at least 5 participants per workshop per year.

***Communicate research to increase knowledge utilization and build capacity for child and youth health***

Facilitate the use of administrative data sets and longitudinal design data for use by child and youth health researchers	CYHRNet to hold 1 workshop per year focused on the use of administrative data sets and longitudinal design data. Speakers to come from the government and research community. CYHRNet to fund members to attend workshop hosted by other organizations on this topic
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**Identify, coordinate,  
and advocate for  
research in priority  
areas**

Disseminate programs, manuals, and tools for child and youth health research ethics, guidelines, and outcome assessment	CYHRNet to utilize the website and quarterly newsletter (CYHRNet to revise the website by March 31, 2007 and continuously update the website and send notifications to members)
Engage the media to promote research aligned with government priorities	CYHRNet to ensure at least 5-10 media are invited to attend workshops and conferences CYHRNet to include media on the newsletter mailing list
Establish a research notes newsletter that highlights BC Child and Youth health research	CYHRNet to develop a quarterly newsletter
Conduct an environmental scan/membership survey for population, feasibility studies, to locate populations, and to identify research gaps and priorities Understand the organizational behavioural motivators that influence organizations, health care institutions, and government	CYHRNet to develop a survey to send to all members every two years (as indicated above) CYHRNet to conduct an environmental scan detailing internal and external factors once a year  CYHRNet to conduct a session with an organizational behavioural facilitator and representation from Senior government and the research community (by July 2007)
Increase community involvement in research by fostering partnerships	CYHRNet to form at least 2 new partnerships per year with organization involved in the priority research areas identified by CYHRNet, and aligned with Ministry objectives.
Facilitate the matching of disciplines (social sciences and medicine) Foster longitudinal projects (i.e. lifespan perspectives, continuity of care from childhood to adulthood, critical points for intervention)	CYHRNet to fund at least 5 social science and medical interdisciplinary research teams a year  CYHRNet to provide funding opportunities for at least 2 longitudinal projects per year CYHRNet to partner with national funding bodies to create 1-2 grant writing workshops for applicants per year

**NEXT STEPS**

- The next steps for CYHRNet’s Strategic Plan are to:
- Prioritize the strategic initiatives and actions
  - Validate the outcomes
  - Revise as necessary

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- CYHRNet recognizes the significant contributions from:
- CYHRNet Steering Committee
  - CYHRNet Membership