

## CLASP MILESTONES AND TIMELINES

Coalitions Linking Action and Science for Prevention, or CLASP, is an initiative of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer that aims to improve the health of communities and of Canadians. It does this by bringing together coalitions of organizations from multiple provinces and territories to integrate cancer prevention with other chronic disease prevention strategies.

CLASP responds to the fact that many aspects of healthy living and healthy environment - such as maintaining a healthy body weight, quitting smoking, and reducing environmental and occupational exposures to toxic substances - can reduce the risk for not only many cancers but also chronic diseases like diabetes, lung disease and heart disease.

Together with its funding partners the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is funding seven CLASPs totalling \$15.5 million. Beyond the specific coalitions it is funding, the Partnership is providing ongoing collaboration opportunities to further support the prevention community in sharing knowledge and best practices and cultivating additional partnerships.

The development of CLASP has been a collaborative effort involving consultation across Canada with researchers, practitioners and policy specialists working in cancer and chronic disease prevention.

### Phase 1: Consultation workshops

#### **February - March 2009:**

In partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society, three consultation workshops (social-behavioural, clinical, and environmental) were held where researchers, practitioners and policy-makers identified strategic partnership opportunities to reduce the risk of developing cancer and other chronic diseases. In addition workshop participants informed the design of request for proposal integrating science, policy, and action for the prevention of major chronic diseases in Canada.

### Phase 2: Request for Proposals development, submission, review and funding prioritization

#### **April - May 2009:**

A series of three one-day planning workshops took place to provide an opportunity for those interested in applying for CLASP funding to exchange ideas and receive further guidance.

The seven funded CLASP projects are:

- The BETTER Project
- Cancer and chronic disease curriculum for Saskatchewan & Manitoba First Nations Communities
- Children's Mobility, Health and Happiness
- Collaborative Action on Childhood Obesity
- Healthy Communities, Healthy Nation
- Promoting health and chronic disease prevention by changing the built environment
- Youth Excel

Organizations interested in applying for CLASP funding were invited to submit a letter of intent to the Partnership by the end of May. This optional step enabled organizations to receive confidential program review feedback about their proposed project from Partnership staff. Both the letters of intent and the written program feedback remained confidential so as not to influence the full proposal adjudication process.

#### **June - July 2009:**

A formal request for proposals was issued. Over 40 proposals were submitted to the Partnership for consideration by the July 17th deadline.

#### **August - September 2009:**

An adjudication panel made up of 36 research, practice and policy experts participated in a two-day reviewer orientation after which they received and reviewed the proposals to which they had been assigned. Panel members were recruited for their expertise in the proposed work. Proposals were discussed and ranked based on the criteria outlined in the request for proposal.

### **Phase 3: Implementation and assessment**

#### **October 2009:**

Recommendations of the adjudication panel were forwarded to the Partnership and final funding decisions were made. All applicants (both funded and unfunded) received anonymous written reviews from the reviewers assigned to their proposals and were given an opportunity to provide the Partnership survey feedback about the quality of these written reviews.

#### **October 2009 - March 2012:**

- Semi-annual CLASP knowledge exchange meetings will be held for funded coalitions and CLASP partners
- The first in a series of knowledge exchange meetings was held on November 23 and 24, 2009 in Toronto.
- A collaborative CLASP workspace will be developed on Cancer View Canada. The shared workspace will be an opportunity for research, practice, and policy specialists across Canada to learn from the CLASP experience.



The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is an independent organization funded by the federal government to accelerate action on cancer control for all Canadians. It is the first body to bring together patient survivors, cancer experts and government representatives from across the country to lead the implementation of a Canadian cancer control strategy.

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