

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools

Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT) focuses on improving access to and use of evidence-based methods and tools for stakeholders involved in policy-making, program decision-making, practice, and research in Canada.

Goals

- ◆ Identify, develop, and evaluate methods and tools for the process of knowledge synthesis, translation, and exchange (KSTE)
- ◆ Improve access to and use of relevant KSTE methods and tools for people involved in public health policy-making, program decision-making, practice, and research
- ◆ Identify gaps in KSTE methods and tools and encourage researchers and others to fill these gaps
- ◆ Raise awareness of evidence-informed practice among those involved in public health
- ◆ Develop the capacity of those involved in public health to use KSTE methods and tools
- ◆ Build active and sustainable networks of KSTE experts and public health policy-makers, practitioners, and researchers, as well as partnerships with the other national collaborating centres, and create linkages with their stakeholder groups

Work to Date

- ◆ Engaged in national consultations with the public health community at large and with the other NCCs to identify priority activities for the NCCMT
- ◆ Conducted a workshop with experts in KSTE to identify ways to support the use of knowledge by public health practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers
- ◆ Completed two syntheses of KSTE literature to identify evidence on the applicability and transferability of research to specific settings and identify tools for the critical appraisal of systematic reviews
- ◆ Established a national advisory group comprised of public health and KSTE experts and practitioners to guide the ongoing work of the NCCMT
- ◆ Officially launched the NCCMT on May 17, 2007, hosted by McMaster University and the Public Health Agency of Canada

Current Activities 2007-2008

- ◆ Establishing an active network with key people involved in public health across Canada and internationally
- ◆ Identifying and evaluating existing KSTE methods and tools in public health nationally and internationally
- ◆ Identifying gaps in existing KSTE methods and tools, selecting one gap, and collaborating with an appropriate group to address the gap
- ◆ Determining the knowledge needs and preferences of the other NCCs, PHAC, and other public health decision-makers and policy-makers to support the development of an integrated knowledge management system
- ◆ Creating an online resource of evidence for public health practice, in collaboration with others
- ◆ Developing and testing search strategies for finding studies of knowledge translation that will be synthesized and circulated nationally and internationally

Host:

McMaster University

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