Domestic Challenges to CBRNe Response: The Federal Role in Health Security

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Health in Canada: a complex environment

In Canada, public health and CBRNE preparedness is a complex environment

- Public health is a shared responsibility - Federal Government, 13 provinces and territories, countless municipalities
- Highly regulated sector: health professional, medical equipment, pharmaceutics & therapeutics
- Lack of national standard and national training program
- First receivers CBRNE preparedness expertise remains a niche competency
- Large scale CBRN events rarely occur in Canada
Comprehensive global and national network

- Health Portfolio Operations Center
  - Watch Office 24-7
  - Single window for the coordination of intelligence and initial risk assessment
- Global Public Health Intelligence Network (GPHIN)
- International Health Regulations (IHR)
- Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence
- Public Health Network
Canadian Laboratory Response Network

Established by Agreement between CDC Atlanta, PHAC NML (2001) and Provincial Laboratories

- **Tier 3**
  - National Microbiology Laboratory (CL-3, CL-4)

- **Tier 2**
  - Provincial Public Health Laboratories (CL-2, CL-3)

- **Tier 1**
  - Hospitals, public, private diagnostic Labs (CL-2)
Microbiological Emergency Response Team

- Biological response capabilities

- Initiated in 2001 to respond to a white powder on East coast

- Evolved to include state of the art mobile laboratories (3 tiers)

- Responsibilities outlined in Emergency Management Act and Federal Emergency Response Plan
National Emergency Strategic Stockpile

- The NESS maintains medical equipment and supplies, pharmaceuticals, pandemic response supplies, and social service assets.
- Provides emergency support capacity for provinces and territories when their own capacities are overwhelmed.
- Assets are deployed quickly when requested by a province or territory.
Surge Capacity to local authority

CBRN Medical Counter Measures

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Health Professionals – A mutual Assistance Framework

Barriers to Mutual Assistance

- Licensing, liability insurance, disability protection, compensations, contractual restrictions, hospital privileges, etc.

Framework for Mutual Assistance

- Provides clear protocols and a common approach to the inter-jurisdictional sharing of health care professional mutual aid during health emergencies
- Requesting jurisdictions responsible for licensing, compensation, insurance, indemnification, etc.
- Non-binding; does not preclude the activation of existing agreements
Three Examples of Joint International Initiatives

- U.S.-Canada Beyond the Borders (BTB) Action Plan
- North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI)
- Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI)
To enhance security and accelerate the legitimate flow of people, goods, and services between Canada and the United States.
North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI)

- Revised NAPAPI (2011)
- Incorporates Lessons Learned from H1N1
- Expands the scope to Animal Influenza
- Examining barriers to mutual assistance
Ministerial-level initiative to strengthen global public health preparedness and response to biological, chemical, radio-nuclear threats, and pandemic influenza