



**Summary of Decisions  
Health Council of Canada  
Council Meeting  
Kelowna, British Columbia  
March 23-24, 2006**

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 6-7, 2006 meeting with one amendment to the resolution from the Finance and Audit Committee.
2. Council reviewed feedback from the Members on the submitted 2006/07 work plan and budget and agreed to revise, repackage and expand the document for resubmission. Council directed attention be paid to the rationale for each item and the highlighting of the nature of collaboration on a number of the projects.
3. A discussion of the mission and mandate of Council generated a set of suggestions and phrases to be used in a mission statement. Jeanne Besner and Bob McMurtry will draft a statement for Council to discuss.
4. Following a discussion of restructuring options, Council selected option one (monitoring committee and strategic priority committees) on the understanding that the strategic priorities would have the flexibility to run over multiple years if needed.
5. Council reviewed the process for the creation of the annual report to Canadians and suggested a number of improvements for data collection and communications. Looking at a different venue and method for the report release should be considered as well a continued effort on regional media. As well, discussion with the jurisdictions is required to facilitate better information provision.
6. Following a discussion of stakeholder engagement and public engagement plans, Council directed that:
  - a) the plans should be integrated into one engagement plan with different audiences;
  - b) we coordinate efforts with the work of others such as the provincial quality councils;
  - c) a formalized and systematic approach is needed to communicate with new Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Health;
  - d) background material be developed to support a Council session on current public opinion on health and health care.
7. Council approved the proposed content and time lines for the report on the health of children and youth.
8. Council requested a follow-up letter be sent to Mr. Jim McCarter, Auditor General of Ontario thanking him for his presentation to the Council and suggesting a number of areas for consideration for a collaborative review. These include:
  - a) The existence of processes to assess the appropriateness of care provided such as drug utilization reviews or assessment of practice variations;

- b) The existence of hospital-acquired infections;
  - c) Accreditation of community-based facilities;
  - d) The cost of services in the public and private sectors.
9. Council requested staff review the recommendations from the existing Auditors' reports in the health area and summarize the areas for improvement. It was suggested that the work of the CCAF be included.
10. Council agreed to establish a strategic priority on "value for money" with a small group of Councillors to oversee the project. It was suggested that a session be organized with external experts to help us start thinking about an approach. The end product might be a white paper that would propose a framework for assessing relative returns on investments to improve population health.
11. Council approved the resolution from the Finance and Audit Committee to stream line some internal financial processes and to raise the signing authority level to \$25,000 for Directors and \$100,000 for the Executive Director.
12. Council approved the Health Outcomes Steering Committee's proposed approach for a series of health outcome reports with the first report planned for the fall of 2006 focused on diabetes.
13. Council agreed the Ontario regional meeting for 2007 should be in Thunder Bay.