



Because Our Kids Deserve The Very Best

Improving Health Care Services for Children with Disabilities in Canada

A National Data Set for Paediatric Rehabilitation

(May 2012)

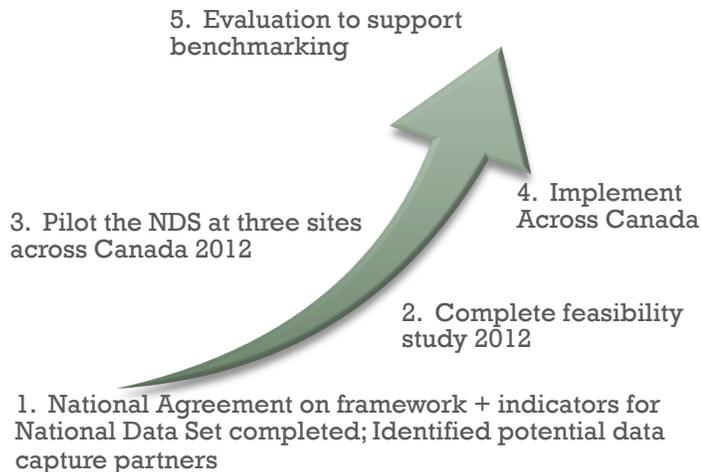
Why now

In Canada, there is no concerted, organized way of measuring and tracking the impact of disability in children. That means that we don't have a consistent way to describe and measure outcomes for this population. This compromises our ability to effectively plan our health care services to meet their needs now and in the future. **We can and we must do better.**

How are Canadian children with disabilities functioning? How well are they integrated into Canadian society? How can the outcomes for children with disability and their families be improved across Canada? Are the right services being delivered at the right time and are these services supporting the transition from childhood to adolescence to adulthood? Are these services supporting participation in meaningful activities? Could our limited resources be better aligned to the needs of the child and family?

The **Canadian Network of Child and Youth Rehabilitation (CN-CYR)** is working to answer these questions. We are a network of individuals and organizations within the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) membership that share an interest in the delivery of child development and rehabilitation services. <http://cn-cyr.caphc.org>. Rehabilitation services have a unique contribution within the health system *to enhance function for meaningful living*. The creation of a **National Data Set (NDS)** for Pediatric Rehabilitation is key to the understanding of how best to use finite resources, strategically align health systems that ultimately will optimize the child's functionality and support a fulfilling and meaningful life for children with disabilities and their families.

Where are we going



What will this mean for children with disabilities

- ✓ Better organized services
- ✓ More consistency in care across Canada
- ✓ Improved access to services
- ✓ An assurance that time and energy is being spent on the right therapies and intervention that will make a meaningful difference
- ✓ Fiscal stewardship
- ✓ Pan-National strategic planning

How can you help

- **JOIN** our National team at CN-CYR and advance the research and excellence in the provision of rehabilitation services for children and youth with disabilities and their families; contact **Doug Maynard** dmaynard@caphc.org or **Vicky Walker** vwalker@caphc.org
- **CHAMPION** the implementation of a pan-Canadian Data Set for children and youth with disabilities
- **SUPPORT** improved quality, coordination and integration of health care services across Canada
- **ADOPT** the use of a common framework – The International Classification of Function, Disability and Health for Children and Youth

Better coordination is required among the national data collection agencies and large research projects associated with child and youth health. A key recommendation in this area is standardizing data sets. Mechanisms of coordination and improved access must be created between Statistics Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and the Public Health Agency of Canada in order to create appropriate comparable data sets that are easily accessible to clinicians, researchers, and organizations that are involved with child and youth programs and policy development!"

2007 Health Canada report by Dr. K. Leitch, Reaching for the Top: A Report by the Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth