

Enhancing Public Policy



Photo: Michael Keeling

Discussion session

Place and Health Conference

Fredericton, N.B.
October 26, 2012

Michael Keeling
National Collaborating
Centre for Healthy
Public Policy



But first things first...

Bon appétit !



©iStockphoto.com/Richard Lloyd



Overview

- Introductions – a tour of the room in five questions
- What I would like to learn today....about your ideas, priorities and interests
- Some points of entry for influencing public policies
- Does the NCCHPP's work relate to your work?

National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

Mission

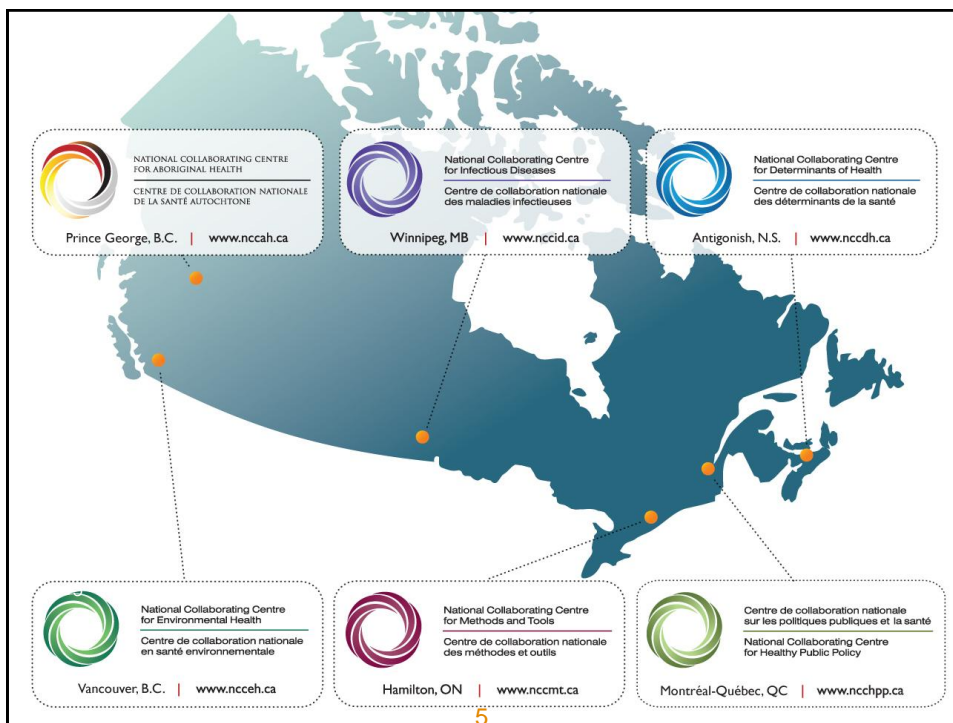
- To be the public health practitioners and decision makers' "bridge" with the research community

Target

- Frontline public health actors and policy makers

Activities

- Synthesizing and sharing knowledge
- Identification of knowledge gaps
- Creating and supporting networks



5

National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

Objective

To increase the expertise of public health actors across Canada in healthy public policy through the development, sharing and use of knowledge

Focus on healthy public policy



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Institut national
de santé publique
Québec

6

What are healthy public policies?

Public policies that potentially enhance populations' health by having a positive impact on the social, economic, and environmental determinants of health.

http://www.ncchpp.ca/62/What_We_Do.ccnpps



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

7

Institut national
de santé publique
Québec



8

Photo: Michael Keeling



A public policy is... (our working definition, shortened)

A **statement** produced by a public authority that defines one or more problems and furnishes a response in terms of objectives, actions and actors
or

A **strategic action** led by a public authority in order to limit or increase the presence of certain phenomena within the population

Adapted from the NCCHPP's working definition found at: http://www.ncchpp.ca/62/What_We_Do.ccnpps
(concept from a working paper developed by François Gagnon)

Policies – built environment and health

Name an instance of a public policy that you are trying to influence to improve health

(Question 1 on the sheet)

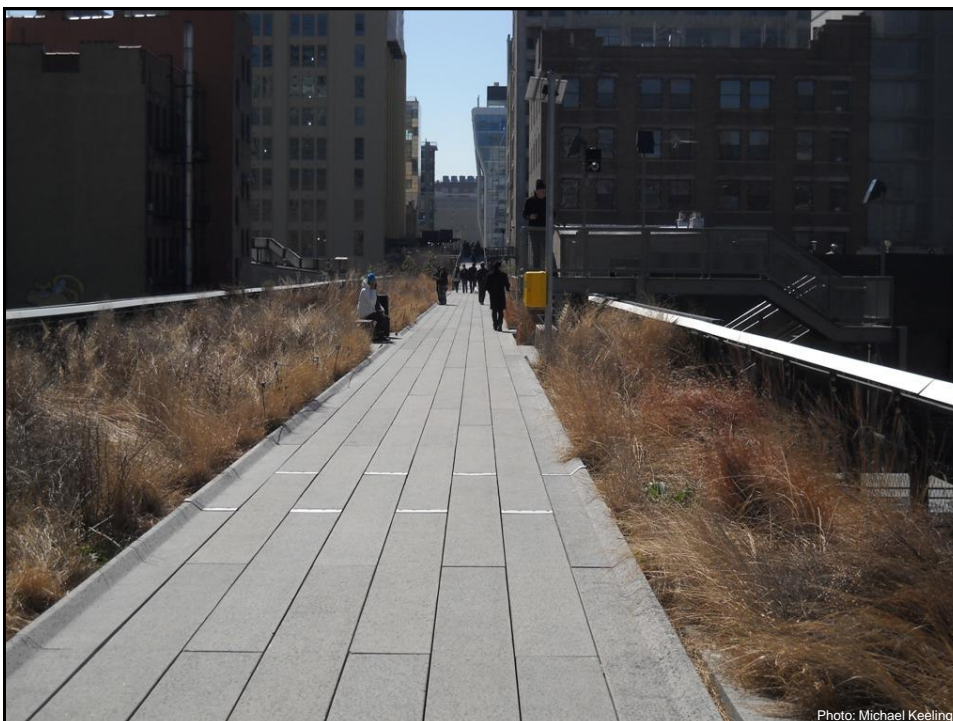




Photo: Michael Keeling

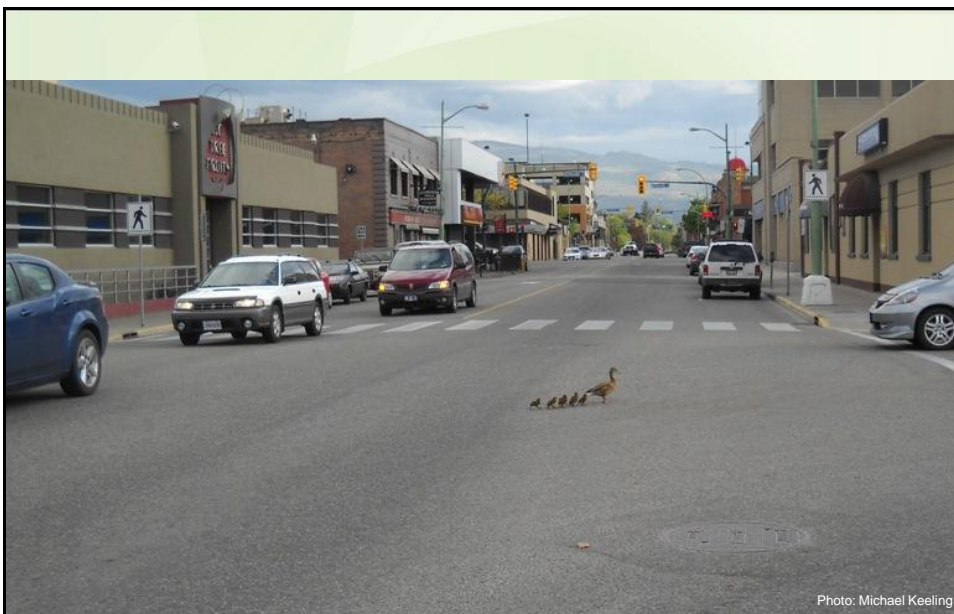


Photo: Michael Keeling



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Question 2

- What public health issues are you currently the most concerned about?

What is missing and/or needed to address these?

Are there any resources that could help you to address them?

But - how can we influence policies?

- What are some *ways in*, some means by which we can engage with policies or the policy sector?

Institut national de santé publique Québec Home INSPQ website Québec Portal Français

National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

Centre de collaboration nationale sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

Home The Centre What's New? Projects Resources Contact Us

Our projects

Health Inequalities Sharing Knowledge Advocacy

Not-for-profit Organizations Analyzing Public Policies

Deliberative Processes Ethics

Health Impact Assessment Built Environment

Integrated Governance Economic Evaluation Policy Processes

How can we make healthy public policies?

Learn about public policies and their effects on health.
Generate and use knowledge about healthy public policies.
Identify models for intersectoral collaboration as well as potential collaborators.
Influence the development of public policies.

What's New
Workshop: A Method for Synthesizing Knowledge to Inform Public Policy Decision Makers - To be held in Montréal at JASP, Nov. 26 2012.

New Publications
Enabling Sustainability Policy and Planning at the Local Level: The Example of Food Policy
A Framework for Analyzing Public Policies - Practical Guide

NCCHPP e-Bulletin
Most Recent Edition
Subscribe

Twitter @NCCHPP

Public Policy and Health Bulletin - INSPQ
Most Recent Edition
Subscribe
Website

Favourites
Tobacco Timeline
Structural Profile of Public Health in Canada

1. Analyzing public policies

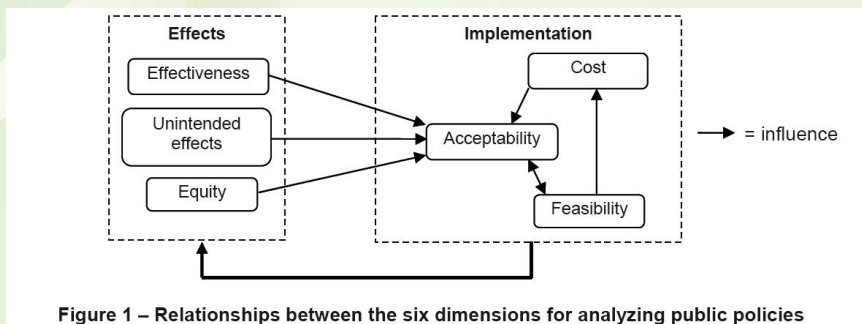


Figure 1 – Relationships between the six dimensions for analyzing public policies

Analytical framework from NCCHPP (2011) Method for synthesizing knowledge about public policies. http://www.ncchpp.ca/172/Publications.ccnpps?id_article=536

2. Health impact assessment – some keywords

- Multisectoral
- Health equity focused
- Timing /situation during policy development
- Holistic (evidence plus contextual factors)
- Participatory
- Adaptable
- Decision-support



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

19

Institut national
de santé publique
Québec

3. Deliberative processes

- “Deliberative processes allow a group of actors to receive and exchange information, to critically examine an issue, and to arrive at an agreement that informs decision making”
- Key elements: democratic governance, informing decision making, contextual richness, diverse set of actors, diverse forms of evidence

http://www.nchpp.ca/57/Deliberative_Processes.ccnpps



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

20

Institut national
de santé publique
Québec

4. Policy processes

- Workshops on analyzing policy fields (examining coalitions of actors and framing)
- Public policy for the public health sector (documents in production): introductions to models, concepts, frameworks
- Evidence and healthy public policy

5. Application: our work on traffic-calming

- Literature review of effects according to four determinants: collisions, air quality, noise and active transport.
- Producing a synthesis of the evidence *can be* useful for informing policy devt.
- Arguably, such evidence is *necessary* but not *sufficient*.... So what can we add to that?

Traffic calming, cont.

- Complementing the work with conceptual clarification: how do decision makers understand the concept of traffic calming as a policy orientation?

Traffic Calming: Political Dimensions
October 2011

Briefing Note
For the Canadian Knowledge Centre for Healthy Public Policy

As we use it, the concept of traffic calming refers to engineering measures (speed bumps, speed bumps, etc.) and behavioural strategies (20-km zones, meeting zones, etc.) that reduce speeds and/or increase traffic volume on existing public roads. The many intervention strategies used by public authorities can be categorized into two categories. One can distinguish the black-spots approach, and the other the area-wide approach. Following our definition, the changes called on the black-spots approach are those that: measures are implemented at specific and isolated target spots within the road network (on residential or on a street, for example), in various cases on the area-wide approach, measures are designed in an integrated manner in a zone made up of more than one street.

The purpose of this document is to provide public health authorities in Canada with a few practical reference points on these two approaches so that they may better assess if they have the type of public sector, political, ways of promoting traffic-calming strategies adapted to their respective context. This briefing note is divided into three sections. In the first, we present the approaches and differences between the two approaches in terms of principles and objectives. The second section, in the second, we examine the political circumstances under which the two approaches are designed. Lastly, in the third section, we evaluate the implications for public health authorities seeking to promote traffic-calming strategies.

Black-spots and area-wide approaches

Here we present a brief comparative description of the two approaches. The description emphasizes the points of which they are based. The method implemented to decide on

the intervention locations and the forms of the interventions themselves.

THE BLACK-SPOTS APPROACH

The black-spots approach is the one that progressively guides the implementation of traffic-calming strategies in Canada. In the face of grassroots urban almost exclusively by road safety management plans and designed as fact, traffic calming in Canada is often limited to road design interventions and is regularly uncoordinated with the broader context, when these roads are isolated. This approach is based on the idea that certain sections of isolated streets or roads, road design team for the intervention, in terms of design, for their users. Therefore, one of the typical errors of the black-spots approach is the approach consists of focusing the problem solely on a road network where the frequency of accidents or the rate of collision is the highest. The solutions that have occurred in a short period are often the only solution implemented. For example, Figure 1, although calculations were also done with the number of accidents with injuries or the number of deaths or other data.

The black-spots approach is generally aimed at locating isolated street blocks or points (roadways) that increase the risk of collisions, injuries and deaths in specific locations.

The approach is ultimately aimed at reducing the number of crashes by concentrating what are considered to be design flaws in these specific points in the network. When it comes to "black-spot" types of traffic-calming, public authorities generally focus on interventions aimed at reducing traffic speeds, and when these interventions are also in place to divert traffic into isolated streets or sections of streets.

It should be noted that the approach is more than just technical, it involves the selection of design or traffic-calming measures, the location, the timing and the type of traffic-calming measures.

institut national de santé publique Québec

Traffic calming, cont.

- A glossary to lend coherence and clarity to the terms we use, and to support the lit. review
- Data tables suitable for reconfiguration

Glossary - Traffic-calming Measures

To consult the PDF version (1.28 MB), [click here](#)

Bike box

Sas vélo,
Sas cycliste

A bike box is a facility that allows cyclists to position themselves in front of vehicles stopped at an intersection with traffic lights. This painted space on the pavement makes cyclists more visible and ensures them start-up priority when the light turns green.



Source: www.rick.com
Photographer: Richard Drouil

Bike lane

Cycle lane,
Bande cycliste

A bike lane is a portion of the road reserved for the exclusive or preferential use of cyclists. Unlike a cycle track, which is physically separated from motor vehicles using the road, a bike lane is delimited by road markings. The space needed for the bike lane is generally obtained by eliminating one traffic lane, by narrowing one or several lanes, or by eliminating parking spaces for cars.



Source: www.pedbikeimages.org
Photographer: Steven Faust

Chicane

Serpentine,
Reversing curve,
Twist

Chicane

A chicane is a series of horizontal deflections (usually three in a row) installed on an otherwise straight road to create an "S" shaped traffic lane.



Source: www.pedbikeimages.org
Photographer: Dan Burden

Choker

Mid-block narrowing

A choker is an isolated narrowing of one or several traffic lanes created by the installation of horizontal mid-blocks in the pavement or on the



Question 3

- Are there any emerging issues that we will become more concerned about in the next five years?

What is missing and/or needed to proactively address these?

Are there any resources that could help you to address them?



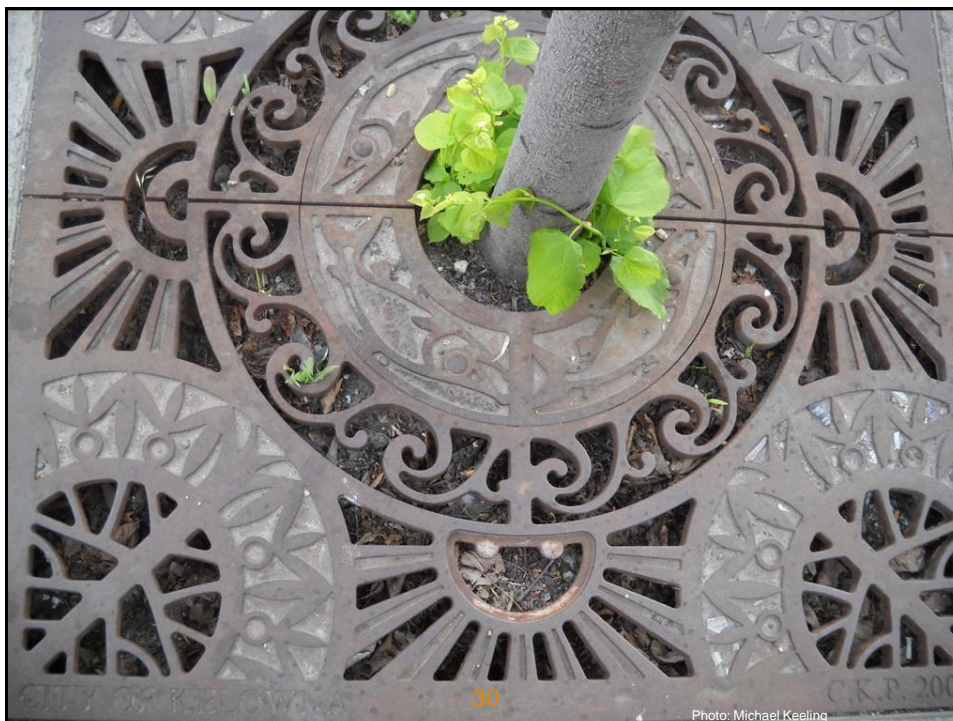
25





Question 4

- From among the following, which do you find more (or less) useful for your work:
 - What's the evidence? Syntheses on the health impacts of public policies (Suggestions for topics?)
 - How do I proceed? Resources and training in how to engage with policies
- Do you have other suggestions for work we ought to do?





Thank you



Our website:
www.ncchpp.ca

For comments or questions, please contact me at:
michael.keeling@inspq.qc.ca