

# At a Glance: Departmental Evaluation Plan for Health Canada 2021-22 to 2025-26

The Office of Audit and Evaluation (OAE) Departmental Evaluation Plan for Health Canada describes the Program Evaluation Division's scheduled work for the five-year period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Plan was developed to meet Health Canada's commitments under the *Policy on Results* (2016), which requires that each department prepare a five-year plan that is updated annually.

The projects included in this Evaluation Plan were selected to ensure full coverage of all Grant and Contribution spending over \$5 million annually over a five-year period, prior commitments in Treasury Board Submissions, the information needs of program management, and program risks, and optimal use of resources. The Departmental Results Framework (DRF), program inventory, and performance information profiles developed by Health Canada have formed the basis for this plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the work of Health Canada (HC) as it remains at the forefront of the Government of Canada's response. To be respectful of the need for branches to focus on the response, and to respond to other oversight reviews such as those led by the Office of the Auditor General and the Standing Committee on Health, OAE reprioritized work and, as necessary and where possible, shifted the timing of planned evaluations.

The present Departmental Evaluation Plan (DEP) reflects the response of OAE to these circumstances, by developing a plan that ensures that OAE focuses its efforts and resources on emerging priorities while continuing to meet our reporting commitments under the *Financial Administration Act* (FAA).

## Planning for Evaluation

Over the next five years, the OAE plans to conduct 29 evaluations that involve Health Canada: 19 will focus exclusively on Health Canada activities and two evaluations will examine the activities of both Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The remaining eight projects are horizontal evaluations – three of which are led by Health Canada and the remaining five projects are led by other government departments or agencies. A yearly breakdown is provided in **Table 1** below. **Table 2** outlines the direct program spending (DPS) by core responsibility for all scheduled evaluations for the next five years.

**Table 1 – Number of evaluations per fiscal year**

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-25	Total
Health Canada	2	3	7	4	3	19
Health Canada and PHAC	1	1	0	0	0	2
Horizontal (HC-led)	0	2	0	1	0	3
Horizontal (OGD-led)	0	2	1	0	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>

**Table 2 – Coverage of Direct Program Spending**

Program	Evaluations planned in the next five years	Fiscal year of approval	2021-22 spending covered by evaluation (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Rationale for not evaluating program or spending
<b>Core Responsibility</b>	<b>Health Care Systems (\$2,453,356,027)</b>			
Health Care Systems Analysis and Policy (\$64,329,560)	Health Care Policy Contribution Program	2023-24	\$64,329,560	N/A
Access, Affordability, and Appropriate Use of Drugs and Medical Devices (\$32,065,919)	Pan Canadian Health Organizations	2023-24	\$32,065,919	N/A
Home, Community and Palliative Care (\$1,401,959,107)	Home Care and Mental Health Services Initiative	2022-23	\$1,401,959,107	N/A
Mental Health (\$601,200,000)	Home Care and Mental Health Services Initiative	2022-23	\$601,200,000	N/A
Digital Health (\$85,774,000)	Pan-Canadian Health Organizations	2023-24	\$85,774,000	N/A
Health Information (\$102,973,979)	Pan-Canadian Health Organizations	2023-24	\$102,973,979	N/A
<i>Canada Health Act</i> (\$1,659,838)	N/A	N/A	\$1,659,838	Low Need: HC's activities have focused on the administration of the Act, such as monitoring for compliance. On an annual basis, the federal Minister of Health is required to report to Parliament on the administration and operation of the Canada Health Act, which provides good oversight on this activity.
Medical Assistance in Dying (\$500,000)	N/A	N/A	\$500,000	Low Need: Program has been recently implemented. Furthermore, while the potential for conducting an evaluation will be examined in the future, parliamentary reporting requirements provide good oversight on

<sup>1</sup> To obtain detailed estimates on program budgets, annual data for 2021-22 is presented. This financial data was extracted by the Chief Financial Officer Branch on February 22, 2021. As a result, these budget figures may not fully align with those contained in other corporate reporting documents such as the Departmental Plan, the Departmental Results Report or the Three-Year Transfer Payment Program Plan.

Program	Evaluations planned in the next five years	Fiscal year of approval	2021-22 spending covered by evaluation (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Rationale for not evaluating program or spending
				this activity at this time.
Cancer Control (\$52,720,000)	Pan-Canadian Health Organizations	2023-24	\$52,720,000	N/A
Patient Safety (\$26,450,000)	Pan-Canadian Health Organizations	2023-24	\$26,450,000	N/A
Blood Systems, Organs, Tissue and Transplantation (\$10,080,000)	Blood Safety (Canadian Blood Services Contribution Programs and PHAC Blood Safety Program)	2022-23	\$10,080,000	N/A
Promoting Minority Official Languages in the Health Care Systems (\$39,018,752)	Action Plan for Official Languages 2018-2023: Investing in our Future Systems	2022-23	\$39,018,752	N/A
Brain Research (\$20,100,000)	Canadian Brain Foundation Contribution Program	2021-22	\$20,100,000	N/A
Thalidomide (\$14,524,872)	Canadian Thalidomide Survivors Support Program	2024-25	\$14,524,872	N/A
Territorial Health Investment Fund (\$0)	Territorial Health Investment Fund	2023-24	- <sup>2</sup>	N/A
<b>Core Responsibility</b>	<b>Health Protection and Promotion (\$1,019,858,561)</b>			
Pharmaceutical Drugs (\$425,682,882)	Pharmaceutical Drugs Program – Human and Veterinary Drugs	2023-24	\$425,682,882	N/A
Biologic and Radiopharmaceutical Drugs (\$49,386,200)	Biologic and Radiopharmaceutical Program	2024-25	\$49,386,200	N/A
Medical Devices (\$25,998,716)	Medical Devices Program	2024-25	\$25,998,716	N/A
Natural Health Products (\$18,116,628)	Natural Health Products Program	2025-26	\$18,116,628	N/A
Food Safety and Nutrition (\$67,065,781)	Food & Nutrition Program - Nutrition Policy	2022-23	\$51,401,927	N/A
	Impact Assessment and Regulatory Processes (IARP) Horizontal Initiative	2022-23	\$151,030	N/A
	Food and Nutrition Program – Food Safety and Veterinary Drugs	2023-24	\$15,512,824	N/A
Air Quality (\$20,807,665)	Addressing Air Pollution Horizontal Initiative	2025-26	\$20,807,665	N/A
Climate Change (\$4,441,714)	Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program	2025-26	\$4,441,714	N/A
Water Quality (\$2,676,386)	Chemicals Management Plan	2024-25	\$2,676,386	N/A

<sup>2</sup>Currently there is no funding associated with this program as the Department is currently seeking renewal of the Program, including a new funding request.

Program	Evaluations planned in the next five years	Fiscal year of approval	2021-22 spending covered by evaluation (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Rationale for not evaluating program or spending
	Impact Assessment and Regulatory Processes (IARP) Horizontal Initiative	2022-23	\$4,976,246	N/A
	Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan: Phase IV	2023-24	\$1,657,441	N/A
	Chemicals Management Plan	2024-25	\$25,636,503	N/A
	Genomics Research and Development Initiative	2025-26	\$793,305	N/A
Consumer Product Safety (\$28,536,286)	Consumer Product Safety	2022-23	\$28,536,286	N/A
Workplace Hazardous Products (\$3,864,866)	Workplace Hazardous Products	2025-26	\$3,864,866	N/A
Tobacco Control (including vaping) (\$31,442,318)	Health Portfolio's Tobacco and Vaping Activities	2021-22	\$31,442,318	N/A
Controlled Substances (\$136,389,096)	Canadian Drugs and Substance Strategy (including Opioids and drug overdose crisis in Canada)	2022-23	\$136,389,096	N/A
Cannabis (\$107,688,259)	Cannabis Program	2022-23	\$107,688,259	N/A
Radiation Protection (\$16,266,655)	Radiation Protection Activities	2023-24	\$16,266,655	N/A
Pesticides (\$33,171,776)	Pesticides Program	2024-25	\$33,171,776	N/A
Specialized Health Services and Internationally Protected Persons Program (\$15,259,838)	N/A	N/A	\$15,259,838	Low Need: No requirement to inform major policy or spending decisions. Low Risk: Low enterprise risk. For one program component, Health Canada is the delivery agent rather than program owner (Employee Assistance Services - EAS). EAS has been accredited with the highest quality standard (gold) of the industry as set out by the Employee Assistance Society of North America (EASNA) as the Council of Accreditation (COA) carries out in-depth assessments of EAS'

Program	Evaluations planned in the next five years	Fiscal year of approval	2021-22 spending covered by evaluation (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Rationale for not evaluating program or spending
				compliance with best practices in the industry.
Other (\$0)	National COVID-19 Exposure Notification App	2021-22	-	N/A
Other (\$0)	ROEB Occupational Health and Safety Program for Inspections and Other Field Activities	2023-24	-	N/A