

Canadian Pain Task Force And External Advisory Panel

May 07, 2019



Chronic Pain is a Significant Health Issue

1 in 5

Number of Canadians suffering from chronic pain
(StatsCan - March 2018)

\$60B

Estimated annual costs to the Canadian economy
(Wilson et al. – 2015, Institute of Medicine - 2011)

1 in 4

Proportion of chronic pain patients who indicated having
seriously considered suicide
(Racine et al. - 2013)

6 Months

Median wait time for an appointment at a public multidisciplinary
pain treatment facility – 12 times longer than private care and a
wait established as medically unacceptable by pain community
(Peng et al. - 2007)

Chronic Pain is on the Federal Agenda

- Throughout 2018, Health Canada officials met with many chronic pain stakeholders to better understand the issues and challenges of people living with chronic pain, particularly in the context of the opioid crisis
- At the Opioid Symposium in September 2018, Health Canada heard from chronic pain stakeholders during
 - a roundtable discussion hosted by the Minister of Health
 - several sessions on chronic pain as part of the Symposium
- In her closing remarks at the Opioid Symposium, the Minister of Health committed to exploring options for a national pain task force

Canadian Pain Task Force

- The Minister of Health announced the creation of the Canadian Pain Task Force on April 3rd at the Canadian Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting and acknowledged chronic pain as disease in its own right
- Comprised of 8 members including people with lived/living experience, researchers and health providers

Dr. Fiona Campbell, Co-Chair

Maria Hudspith, Co-Chair

Melissa Anderson

Dr. Manon Choinière

Dr. Hani El-Gabalawy

Jacques Laliberté

Dr. Jaris Swidrovich

Linda Wilhelm

Canadian Pain Task Force Mandate

- **Assess** how chronic pain is currently addressed in Canada (June 2019)
- Conduct national consultations and review available evidence to identify **best and leading practices**, potential **areas for improvement**, and **elements of an improved approach** to chronic pain management and prevention in Canada (June 2020)
- Collaborate with key stakeholders to **disseminate information** related to best practices and facilitate their uptake across the country (December 2021)

Scope

In

- Evidence on prevention, treatment, and management of chronic pain
- Gaps and areas for improvement
- Existing strategies and their design characteristics
- Barriers and facilitators

Out

- Formal recommendations and proposed policies
- Clinical practice guidelines or decision-making tools
- Review of efficacy, safety, or quality of specific clinical interventions

Canadian Pain Task Force Activities

- Consult the External Advisory Panel
- Conduct national consultations
- Review the evidence in all its forms
- Collaborate with key stakeholders
- Consider priority populations (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, veterans, seniors, children)

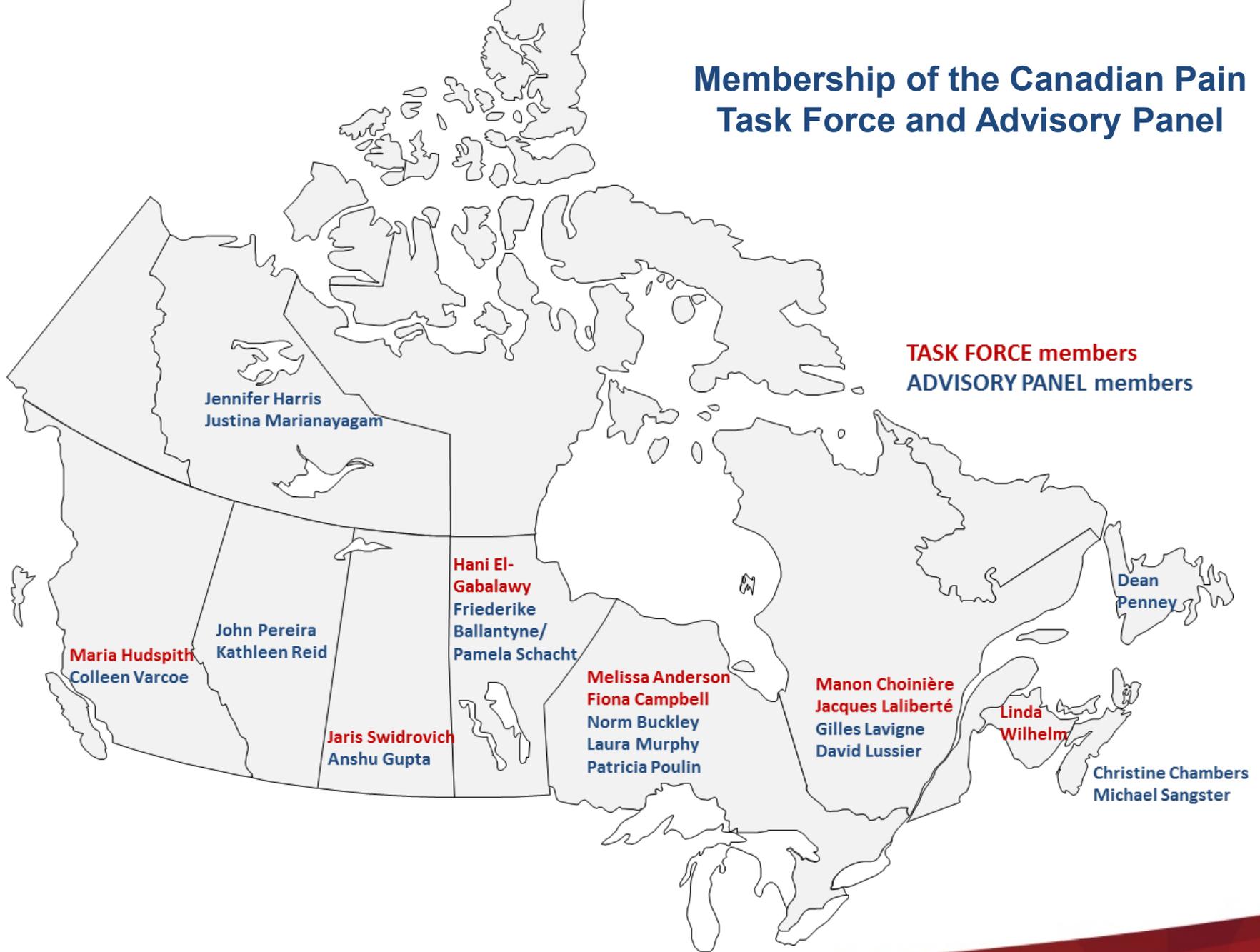
Role of External Advisory Panel Members

- Provide up-to-date scientific evidence, information and advice to the Task Force reflecting areas of expertise and experience
- Advise the Task Force on evidence and information gathering methodologies, analyses, and report creation
- Enable the connections required for effective regional and stakeholder consultations and collaboration
- Assist in the dissemination of the work of the Task Force

External Advisory Panel Members

- Friederike Ballantyne/Pamela Schacht – **First Nations community nursing**
- Dr. Norm Buckley – **Anaesthesiology, pain-focused research**
- Dr. Christine Chambers – **Psychology, pediatric pain research**
- Anshu Gupta – **Occupational Therapy**
- Dr. Jennifer Harris – **Family medicine, pain and substance use disorder focus**
- Dr. Gilles Lavigne – **Dentistry**
- Dr. David Lussier – **Geriatrics, pain in older persons**
- Justina Marianayagam – **Chronic pain advocacy, lived/living experience, medical student/researcher**
- Laura Murphy – **Pharmacy**
- Dean Penney – **Social work**
- Dr. John Pereira – **Family medicine, pain focus**
- Dr. Patricia Poulin – **Psychology, pain focused research**
- Kathleen Reid – **Nursing, pain focus**
- Michael Sangster – **Physiotherapy, pediatric pain**
- Dr. Colleen Varcoe – **Nursing, violence and trauma, research, Indigenous health**

Membership of the Canadian Pain Task Force and Advisory Panel



Governance

- Reports to the Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of the Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch (CSCB) at Health Canada.
- Supported by the Canadian Pain Task Force Secretariat recently established within CSCB
- Connected to other federal government departments via Health Canada
- Guided by the Health Canada *Policy on External Advisory Bodies*

Immediate Next Steps

- Meeting of the Task Force and Advisory Panel, May 1st & 2nd, Ottawa
 - Engage with federal government departments including Health Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Public Health Agency of Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada
 - Discuss key messages and content to be addressed in the first Task Force report on the current state of chronic pain in Canada due in June 2019
 - Initiate stakeholder engagement planning

Contact Information

Contact Task Force members directly

Email the Secretariat at:

hc.cptfsecretariatsecretariatgtcsld.sc@canada.ca

Google 'Canadian Pain Task Force' and use the contact link provided online