

Inspiring Healthy Futures

#WeCANforKids

Inspiring Healthy Futures together: Collaborating for child, youth, and family health and wellbeing through COVID recovery and beyond

Invitation to Strategy Hives

It's time for an acceleration agenda!

The COVID19 pandemic has put incredible pressure on children, youth and families across Canada. School closures, limited access to services, and social isolation are expected to have a lasting impact on this generation of children and youth. The pandemic has also profoundly demonstrated the limits of our foundational support structures for the health and wellbeing of children, youth and families across the country.

In the first phase of engagement for our Inspiring Health Futures initiative, one message rose above all: we need to act now. Overwhelmingly, participants said “we need an acceleration agenda” – a plan for what we can achieve now – along with a framework for “building back better” after the pandemic. They were inspired by the potential to do this together, with many voices in unison.

From February 16 – March 3, we will be holding eight focused planning sessions (called “Strategy Hives”) around the key themes identified in the first phase of the engagement. In each, we will be developing an agenda for what we can do right now as well as priorities for long term planning. Each Hive will build on the previous ones, leaving us with a robust, multi-faceted plan we can begin right away.

Each session will be a dynamic, interactive experience, focusing both on mobilizing communities to change policy and transform knowledge into action to support kids and youth through this crisis, and creating the new research, collaborations and structures that will set them up for a thriving future.

Please join us for as many of these “Strategy Hives” as you can. We know your time is precious, and have designed them to draw on your expertise and experience quickly and effectively, so we all have a shared “acceleration agenda” for action.

Below is a more detailed description of each of the Strategy Hive topics with associated registration links. We hope to attract voices from diverse communities across Canada representing youth, parents, clinicians, educators, researchers, leaders, policy makers and more -- please take a moment to review and **consider being a part of these important sessions, and to share this invitation widely in your network and beyond.**

Strategy Hive #1 Inspiring Healthy Futures: Hope for a brighter future

Youth today are faced with a myriad of challenges that have been amplified by the pandemic. Pressure to succeed, uncertainty about employment and career, finding direction in the context of racial and other structural inequities, deep anxiety about the state of the world, climate change and a profound desire to have a voice in the future of our country weigh heavily on youth across Canada.

Join us for this Strategy Hive where we will explore how we can grow a sense of hope for children and youth so they feel they can meaningfully influence their current lives and their futures. In this session we will identify clear short and long term priorities for knowledge/research, programs/services and other actions that will support their success and build child and youth voices into decision making about their world.

Date and Time: Tuesday February 16, 2021 from 3-5pm ET

Link to Register: <https://hive1-hopeforabrighterfuture.eventbrite.ca>

Strategy Hive #2: Inspiring Healthy Futures: Love, safety and healthy childhood

We know that kids thrive when they are in an environment of love and acceptance, and where they feel safe and supported. Caring relationships and effective parenting are essential factors, but many parents across Canada face social, economic and health related challenges that make it very difficult to create environments that are needed for kids to thrive.

Join us for this Strategy Hive where we will explore what we have learned about what's most important to support and sustain healthy parenting and families. We will look to set shared priorities for how we support parents and families to recover from the impact of COVID-19, and the policies, knowledge / research, and programs and that will make the biggest difference.

Date and Time: Thursday February 18, 2021 from 1-3pm ET

Link to Register: <https://hive2-lovesafetyandhealthychildhood.eventbrite.ca>

Strategy Hive #3 Inspiring Healthy Futures: Basics of a healthy life

Across almost every conversation about child, youth and family health and well-being, the need for the basics of life are identified as the critical factor in improving outcomes. Thousands of families across Canada live below the poverty line and without key social determinants of health like food security, dependable housing, internet access, safe communities and financial support for special needs. The pandemic has put these inequities and their impact into relief across the country and threatens to stretch them wider for years to come, making this moment a profound opportunity to make a difference.

Join us for this Strategy Hive where we will explore how we will use the lessons of the pandemic era to transform how we support social determinants of health and the specific changes to social structures and programs that will make the biggest difference.

Date and Time: Monday February 22, 2021 from 6-8pm ET

Link to Register: <https://hive3-basicsofahealthylife.eventbrite.ca>

Strategy Hive #4 Inspiring Healthy Futures: Stronger health systems for kids and families

We know that strong, accessible, integrated services and care are a fundamental part of creating good health outcomes – but children and youth with complex and chronic health conditions regularly face challenges accessing and navigating our health, social, and education systems. Despite significant advancements in research, care, and education, families still do not have what they need to thrive, and with the effects of the pandemic, these issues have only been exacerbated.

Join us for this Strategy Hive where we will explore what we can learn from pandemic experience and its impact on the mental and physical health of children and youth to inform how we create stronger, more accessible systems of health for kids and families. We will identify the most important changes that we could make to support recovery and development, improve transition to adult systems, and how we can improve connected care for the most vulnerable and medically complex.

Date and Time: Tuesday February 23, 2021 from 3-5pm ET

Link to Register: <https://hive4-strongerhealthsystems.eventbrite.ca>

Strategy Hive #5 Inspiring Healthy Futures: Racial and structural equity for all

The past year taught us once again that we have a long way to go as a nation to address the structures that create historical inequities for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour communities. In this Hive, we will explore how we mobilize around the social movement to action on rights, reconciliation and racial and structural equity for kids, youth and families across Canada. Together, we will identify the policy, knowledge and programs that could make the biggest difference to address structural and cultural inequities, now and for the future.

Date and Time: Wednesday February 24, 2021 from 3-5pm ET

Link to Register: <https://hive5-racialandstructuralequityforall.eventbrite.ca>

Strategy Hive #6 Inspiring Healthy Futures: Learning, belonging and play

As so many families have lost access to school and childcare during the pandemic, we have a renewed realization about how profoundly these education systems are critical hubs for learning, development and support. At the same time, we have a deep recognition about what children and youth are losing without healthy, safe environments and outdoor spaces for active play and socialization.

In this Strategy Hive, we will explore what the pandemic has underlined about the essential nature of schools and community spaces as hubs and how can we build recovery plans that prioritize meaningful learning, outdoor play, recreation and belonging.

Date and Time: Monday March 1, 2021 from 1-3pm ET

Link to Register: <https://hive6-learningbelongingandplay.eventbrite.ca>

Strategy Hive #7: Inspiring Healthy Futures: landing on our short-term acceleration agenda

In our second-last strategy hive, we will consolidate all of the ideas of the first six hives to develop a crisp, comprehensive acceleration agenda for policy, knowledge/research, programs and community action to guide rapid implementation in the next six months.

Date and Time: Tuesday March 2, 2021 from 3-5pm ET

Link to Register: <https://hive7-shorttermaccelerationagenda.eventbrite.ca>

Strategy Hive #8: Inspiring Healthy Futures: landing on our longer-term agenda

In our final strategy hive, we will consolidate all ideas and priorities to finalize our longer term collaboration agenda for policy, knowledge/research, programs and community action, to guide, influence and advocate for more child, youth and family centred health, education, government and social services. We will also develop concrete recommendations for sustainable, high impact science, knowledge mobilization and community networking.

Date and Time: Wednesday March 3, 2021 from 6-8pm

Link to Register: <https://hive8-longertermagenda.eventbrite.ca>