

NCCPH Summer Institute 2012

# The Learning Circle: a “new” approach to integrated KT

Lesley Dyck, MA

Knowledge Translation Specialist

Phone: 778-516-1514

E-mail: [ldyck@stfx.ca](mailto:ldyck@stfx.ca)



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Learning Objectives

## **1. Providing the Context of the Population Health Status Reporting (PHSR) Initiative:**

- What is the purpose? What are the components?
- What is a Learning Circle? Who are the members of the PHSR Learning Circle?
- Why did we decide to use a Learning Circle?
- What strategies & tools are being used to support the Learning Circle?



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## **2. Knowledge Synthesis, Translation and Exchange (KSTE)**

- What is KSTE? What is Knowledge Translation (KT)?  
What is Integrated KT?
- How does a Learning Circle work as an integrated KT strategy or tool?
- How effective is a Learning Circle as a KT tool?



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

### **3. Other Contexts**

- What other situations might benefit from using a Learning Circle as a KT tool?
- What are the potential limitations?



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# **Please introduce yourself and include:**

Your name and where you're from

**AND**

One example of how KT is part of your work  
and/or interest

**OR**

An interesting KT example that recently  
caught your attention



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## About the NCCDH

- One of six National Collaborating Centres (NCCs)
- Focused on the social determinants of health & health equity
- Responds to the needs of public health professionals and organizations
- Shares evidence on how to advance health equity within the scope of public health practice



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Environmental Scan



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health  
Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

March 2011

## INTEGRATING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY INTO CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE:

Environmental Scan 2010

National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health  
[www.nccd.ca](http://www.nccd.ca)

# Agenda

1. Population Health Status Reporting (PHSR) Initiative (20 minutes)
2. Knowledge Synthesis, Translation and Exchange (KSTE) (10 minutes)
3. Other Contexts:
  - Small Group Discussions (30 minutes)
  - Large Group Sharing (15 minutes)



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé



# About the Population Health Status Reporting (PHSR) Initiative

## Purpose

- To help Canadian public health organizations and practitioners improve methods to produce population health status reports that better illuminate health inequities in order to support the development of effective health-equity policies



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## **Research Questions**

1. What are the best available methods for integrating indicators of health equity into population health status reporting?
2. What are the best available methods for communicating effectively about health equity in the context of public health surveillance?



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## Some definitions ...

- What is a population health status report?

“An instrument that has the potential to use existing scientific and local knowledge [about the health, or determinants of health, of the population or sub-populations], to inform decisions about actions to improve health programs and reduce health inequities.”

(Backgrounder, NCCDH, 2012)

- What do we mean by health equity?

Health inequities are, “systematic differences in health judged to be avoidable by reasonable action.”

(World Health Organisation, 2008)



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Examples of Canadian PHS Reports ...

## **Geographically defined population:**

- Healthy Canadians: A Federal Report on Comparable Health Indicators (2008), <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/pubs/system-regime/2008-fed-comp-indicat/index-eng.php>

## **Burden of a particular disease or condition:**

- Windsor-Essex County Cancer Report (2010), [http://www.wechealthunit.org/about-us/reports/Cancer%20Report%202010\\_Final.pdf](http://www.wechealthunit.org/about-us/reports/Cancer%20Report%202010_Final.pdf)

## **Health status of a sub-population:**

- The Health and Well-being of Women in British Columbia (2008), <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/phoannual2008.pdf>

## **Impact of a determinant of health:**

- Peterborough County Environmental Health Status Report (2010), [http://pcchu.peterborough.on.ca/Plans/Environmental%20Health%20Stat us%20Report.pdf](http://pcchu.peterborough.on.ca/Plans/Environmental%20Health%20Status%20Report.pdf)

# PHSR Initiative (continued)

## Components:

- Advisory Committee
- Learning Circle (members & observers)
- Practice Hub (Capital Health, Halifax)
- Evidence/Research Support (NCCDH & Public Health Ontario – contracted services)
- Developmental Evaluation Support (One World – contracted services)



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Learning Circle

## Definition:

“A learning circle (also known as a study circle) is a cooperative way of learning that is based on natural patterns of human interaction. It consists of a series of discussions, demonstrations and presentations through which members share their experiences, generate new knowledge and apply new skills.”

(Backgrounder, NCCDH, 2012)



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Our Learning Circle structure ...

- **Members and Schedule**
  - 10 members; 1 Learning Hub (Capital Health, Halifax)
  - 1 face-to-face meeting (March 2012)
  - 4 teleconference calls of 2 hours (May, July, October, November)
- **Strategies and Tools**
  - Facilitation & Notes/Updates
  - Online Learning Network
  - Backgrounders
  - Developmental Evaluation



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## Examples of topics so far ...

1. What is the **purpose** of population health status reports? Where are they being undertaken? What types of report are conducted?
2. How do we choose **indicators**? What indicators are best suited for illuminating health inequities? At what level do indicators have traction?



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé



# Learning Circle Cycle

## Capital Health (Halifax)

- Applies the learning from the discussion

## Learning Circle Members

- Share interesting links and resources
- Participate in online discussions

## Learning Circle Meeting

- Capital Health reports back on their experience applying learnings from the previous meeting
- Brief presentation by NCCDH on the new topic (selected at the last meeting)
- LC discussion, sharing of information and ideas
- Selection of the topic for the next meeting

## NCCDH

- Prepares summary notes of the discussion for the LC
- Works with PHO to frame and pull evidence for the next topic; sends out backgrounder 1 week before next meeting
- Writes a blog for the Online Learning Community, with links to backgrounders, references and resources



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## Some more definitions ...

### **Knowledge Translation**

“At CIHR, KT is defined as a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians ... this process takes place within a complex system of interactions between researchers and knowledge users ...”

(CIHR website, accessed April 20/12)



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## **Integrated KT**

“In integrated KT, stakeholders or potential research knowledge users are engaged in the entire research process ... this approach, also known by such terms as collaborative research, action-oriented research and co-production of knowledge, should produce research findings that are more likely to be relevant to and used by the end users.”

(CIHR website, accessed April 20/12)



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Is a Learning Circle an integrated KT approach?

## Integrated KT

- Dynamic, iterative process
- Users engaged with researchers in the entire research process
- Collaborative, action oriented
- Co-production of knowledge

## Learning Circle

- Series of discussions, demonstrations and presentations
- Cooperative way of learning
- Members share their experiences, generate new knowledge and apply new skills



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Other Contexts

## Small Group Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever used a Learning Circle approach? What made it an effective/ineffective Knowledge Translation (KT) approach?
- Is there a situation in which you think you would like to try to use a Learning Circle approach?
- What do you see as the advantages/strengths? disadvantages/weaknesses?



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## **Large Group Sharing:**

- What advantages of using a Learning Circle approach did you identify?
- What potential disadvantages did you identify?
- Did any clear opportunities to use a Learning Circle approach get identified?
- What would be helpful for the NCCDH to document and share from our process over the next year?



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

## References & Links

- Tamarack Vibrant Communities Government Learning Circle (Learning Circle example)  
[www.tamarackcommunity.ca/g3s61\\_VC\\_051906.html](http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/g3s61_VC_051906.html)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – About Knowledge Translation <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html>
- A Developmental Evaluation Primer (The McConnell Foundation)  
<http://www.mcconnellfoundation.ca/en/resources/publication/a-developmental-evaluation-primer>



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

---

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé

# Contact Us

National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health  
St. Francis Xavier University  
PO Box 5000, Antigonish  
Nova Scotia, Canada B2G 2W5

Phone: (902) 867-5406 Fax: (902) 867-6130

[www.nccdh.ca](http://www.nccdh.ca) and [www.ccnds.ca](http://www.ccnds.ca)



@NCCDH\_CCNDS



National Collaborating Centre  
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
des déterminants de la santé