QUÉBEC’S GOVERNMENT POLICY OF PREVENTION IN HEALTH

An Ambitious Health Policy to Strengthen Dialogue Across Government

*Health in All Policies: A key approach in progressing the Sustainable development Goals*

International Conference, Adelaide, South Australia
Steam two : Getting Health in All Policies on the Agenda: Strategy and Tactics.
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Government Policy of Prevention in Health

Context

One of the 13 provinces/territories of the Canadian federation

French-speaking population

Health care under provincial/territorial jurisdictions

8 million inhabitants

Government is made up of 19 ministries
Government Policy of Prevention in Health
at a glance

• A whole-of-government approach
• Endorsed by the Quebec Premier
• Coordinated by the Minister delegate for Rehabilitation, Youth Protection, Public Health and Healthy Living
• A ten year policy, launched in October 2016
• Developed in partnership with sectors who detain Social Determinants of Health levers
• Includes 28 measures (department commitments) from 15 ministries/agencies
• With CAN$ 76,1 million as an initial investment
Government Policy of Prevention in Health
Targets by 2025

- Increase to 80% the proportion of children who start being without being considered vulnerable in a developmental domain.
- Ensure that 90% of municipalities with populations of 1,000 or more people adopt measures to develop communities that foster sustainable mobility, safety, healthy living, and a good quality of life for their residents.
- Increase affordable, social and community housing by 49%.
- Lower the number of daily and occasional smokers to 10% of the population.
- Achieve a high level of emotional and psychosocial well-being among at least 80% of the population.
- Increase the percentage of seniors receiving homecare services by 18%.
- Achieve a minimum consumption of five fruits and vegetables per day, by at least half of the population.
- Increase by 20% the percentage of young people aged 12 to 17 who are active during their leisure activities and choose active modes of transportation.
- Reduce by 10% the gap in premature mortality between the lowest and highest socio-economic groups. (Premature mortality refers to death at a relatively young age.)
Government Policy of Prevention in Health
Inclusive Objectives

1. **Develop people’s capacities from an early age**
   
   E.g. : Support improvements in the quality of educational child care
   
   →  Ministry of Families

2. **Develop healthy and safe communities and regions**
   
   E.g.: Increase healthy and affordable housing
   
   →  Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Regions and land Occupancy

3. **Promote healthy living conditions**
   
   E.g. : Promote the nutritional food in Quebec
   
   →  Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

4. **Strengthen the role of prevention in the health and social services system**
   
   - E.g. : Implement a strategy aimed at reducing tobacco use
   
   →  Ministry of Health and Social Services
Intersectoral governance structures for the development of the Intersectoral Action Plan

- **Council of Ministers**
- **Steering Committee**
  (Assistant-deputy Ministers from the 15 M/As)
- **Strategic committee**
  (Mid-level managers for the 15 M/As)
- **Intersectoral tandems**
  (professionals from health sector and the sector in charge of the measure, and their partners/collaborators)

Within the government:

- Coordination Team
  (Ministry of Health and Social Services)

Outside the government:

- NGOs
- Associations
- Experts
- Partners from civil society
Government Policy of Prevention in Health
Ambitious in many ways

<table>
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<tr>
<th>High-reaching targets, and evaluation challenges</th>
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<td>Maintaining political interest over time; prevention will always be at the margin of governmental priorities</td>
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<td>Multiplication of actors, interests, values, ideas; developing common understanding and convergence</td>
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<td>Ensuring the cohesion with the multiplication of other Intersectoral policies; complex matrix</td>
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<td>Change in governmental working culture; collaborative decision-making, win-win strategies and compromises</td>
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<td>Managing diverse (and sometimes conflicting) logics; political vs administrative; horizontal vs vertical</td>
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Québec
Getting HiAP in the agenda

- Strategy and Tactics -

✓ Long history of strong leadership from the Health (Public Health) sector

✓ Involvement of ambassadors and champions at the political level

✓ Role of Intersectoral health promotion groups at national and local levels—citizen mobilisation
- Strategy and Tactics -
Strong leadership from the Public Health sector

- Long tradition in advocating for working on Social Determinants of Health
- Development and wisely use of organizational and legal levers (E.g. HIA for law and regulations)
- Knowledge development and transfer strategies (E.g. support of academic researches on healthy public policy and on decision-making processes)
- Building Public Health skills, abilities and culture: from authoritative and/or silos approach to collaborative and win-win strategies; communication adapted to the other sectors and to government goals; ...
- Recognizing and relying on allies within and outside the government
- Strategy and Tactics -

Involvement of ambassadors and champions at the political level

- Political commitment to HiAP at the highest possible level is an imperative
- Pressure from inside the government (public administrative management) is essential, but not enough
- Political decision-makers are sensitive to well known and highly appreciated advocates
- Strategy and Tactics –
Role of Intersectoral health promotion groups at national and local levels– citizen mobilisation

- The number of community groups involved in promoting healthy living, and their vitality, gives a clear signal, both to ministries and political decision makers, about the population will

- The message must be carried by a large number and a wide variety of messengers, not only by public health actors
Getting HiAP on the agenda
A web of interconnected factors -
Public health sector as ‘policy entrepreneur’ to spur and make connections

Healthy municipalities
Healthy Food
Healthy Schools
Demands from the population
International recommendations /experiences
Political will
Public Administration -Coherence and population needs-
Knowledge transfer
Research studies
Lobby from ambassador, champions
Financial opportunities ‘Sin money’, Foundation
Media
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