

CASE STUDY

Chemicals Management Plan (CMP)

Science Committee in Canada

Canada

The CMP Science Committee is a multisectoral committee that provides expertise on scientific considerations in the delivery of Canada's CMP.

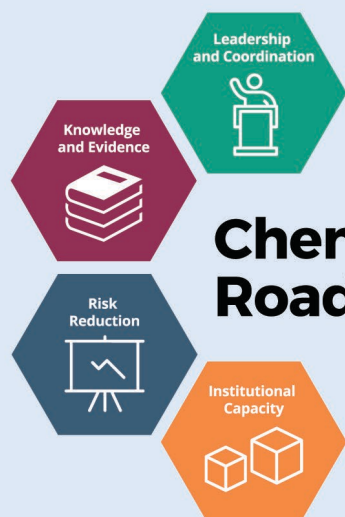
Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the CMP Science Committee is to support the strong science foundation of the CMP by providing independent expertise to Health Canada (HC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on scientific considerations in the delivery of the CMP.

Committee objectives include meeting approximately twice a year and, for each topic, producing a final report based on Committee member perspectives and meeting deliberations.

Committee members are expected to:

- (1) participate in a pre-meeting webinar covering background information;
- (2) review a discussion paper developed by HC/ECCC, which includes key questions for the Committee, and other key reading material; and
- (3) attend and contribute to a two-day meeting.



Project Overview

Context

The CMP is a Government of Canada initiative aimed at reducing the risks posed by chemicals to Canadians and their environment. Ensuring a strong science foundation is a key element of the CMP. In support of this, HC and ECCC jointly created a CMP Science Committee in 2013 to contribute expertise pertaining to scientific considerations in decision-making and the delivery of the CMP.

The Committee supports the WHO Chemicals Road Map Knowledge and Evidence and Leadership and Coordination action areas by promoting the sharing of evidence to inform policy and programme delivery through collaboration and engagement with experts from various sectors.

Approach

The Committee consists of a diverse group of science experts from academia, industry, other governments and research organizations who have various areas of expertise related to the delivery of the CMP.

Examples of expertise sought include:

- human health and/or ecological risk assessment;
- predictive models, tools and new approach methodologies;
- legislative and regulatory frameworks related to chemicals management and scientific decision-making; and
- manufacture or use of chemicals.

Members of this Committee are self-nominated and do not represent their employers, organizations, or professional affiliations.

The Government uses a two-tiered approach to determine the membership based on a rating of areas of expertise and a best-fit analysis to balance areas of expertise, gender, human health versus ecological focus, organizational background and references. This ensures a range of expertise is available. For each meeting, ad hoc members are also invited to participate in bringing specific subject matter expertise to Committee discussions.



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Results

- Increased diversity of scientific multisectoral perspectives, resulting in strengthened evidence-based informed decision-making throughout CMP delivery. Expertise of the Committee members has helped Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada explore challenging topics related to the future of chemicals management, including:
 - considerations for cumulative risk
 - use of new approach methodologies
 - informed substitution
 - occupational health.
- Increased collaboration, partnership and awareness of the CMP among relevant partners and stakeholders from nongovernmental organizations, international governments, industry and academia.
- Strengthened multisectoral working relationship between Canada's health and environment sectors, as the Committee is jointly led by HC and ECCC.
- Improved information sharing through:
 - Production and posting of meeting records and reports on the website.
 - Inclusion of Committee updates in CMP Progress Reports posted on the Canada.ca website.
 - Sharing of updates with other organizations/groups (e.g. CMP Stakeholder Advisory Council, universities, OECD Working Party on Hazard Assessment, etc.) and internal staff.
 - Preparation and posting of a mid-term and final term report for each term of the Committee (these reports summarize topics and also include sections on what was done with Committee input for each topic).

Lessons Learned

In 2016, a review of Term 1 (2013–2016) was conducted to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and continued relevance of the Committee. Below are some of the findings from the 2016 review:

- The Committee received high ratings from all respondents and felt that the mandate remains relevant.
- In order to provide greater context and to increase transparency, Government of Canada Objectives/Discussion Papers should be posted online with the Committee reports.
- Committee members asked to be debriefed on what is done with the input received from previous Committee reports. They also requested that all efforts be made to have clear charge questions and ensure that members understand what is being asked.
- Committee topics should be carefully selected so that input is meaningful and can shape future areas of work.

This case study was authored by Health Canada. The named authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

Recommendations

Based on the 2016 review and more recent experience, the following recommendations were made and implemented:

Maintain diverse representation of expertise and perspectives.

Conduct analysis to identify diverse expertise and perspectives that should be represented on the Committee, and as members resign, continue to review membership for any gaps in expertise and perspectives that should be filled by newly recruited members.

Pre-meeting webinars are essential to ensure common understanding of charge questions. *Members appreciate the opportunity to discuss the charge questions and also to have background information or case studies shared with them in advance of the meeting.*

Share how Committee input is used. *Communicate with Committee members and government officials on what is done with the Committee's input.*

Actively communicate the Committee's work with key stakeholders. *Promote knowledge translation and public confidence in the CMP beyond sharing of public reports by seeking opportunities to share work with external stakeholders (e.g. presentations at external science meetings).*

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