



A-Z OF HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF ONTARIO HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COALITION & BC HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SOCIETY

M - MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION

KEY BENEFITS OF MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION INCLUDE:

- Avoiding duplication
- Collectively addressing interrelated factors
- Data sharing
- Facilitating health in all policies
- Facilitating scaling-up initiatives
- Integrated planning
- Increasing potential impacts
- Maximizing efficiencies and resources
- Overcoming implementation barriers
- Reducing inequities in health
- Creating shared goals for better outcomes

WHAT IS MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION?

Developmental psychologist Robert Kegan suggests that in dealing with an increasingly complex world, we have two choices. Our first choice is to see the world as simpler. Our second choice is to increase the complexity of our own perspective to the extent necessary to meet the challenges.¹ Communities are complex living systems, influenced by interrelated social, environmental and economic factors. One approach that holds considerable potential for sustainable change within a complex system such as a community is multisectoral collaboration.

WHY IS MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION IMPORTANT?

An important and essential pillar of the Healthy Communities Approach, multisectoral collaboration is a process of system change whereby the focus shifts from responsibility being on the individual or individual organization to a broader 'collective' community-level approach. Multisectoral collaborations represent intentional involvement and participation among a range of stakeholder groups such as all levels of government, community organizations, and private sector groups. The groups involved span sectors including health, environment, and economy to name a few, united in the name of achieving a common vision, goal or policy outcome.

Given the complexity of a community as a 'system,' no single organization or sector has full control over the determinants of population health. However, effective solutions can be identified through pooling capacity, and by leveraging differences, such as differences in resources, experiences, demographics, industry, sectors, and perspectives as assets.²

REFERENCES

1. Becker, J. and Smith, D.B. (2018). [The Need for Cross Sector Collaboration](#). Stanford Social Innovation Review.
2. European Commission (2017). [Multisectoral approaches to tackling Health Inequities](#).

RESOURCES

Canadian Healthy Communities Network: [The Healthy Communities Approach: A Framework for Action on the Determinants of Health](#).

Community Toolbox: [Developing Multisector Collaborations](#).



Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition
Coalition des Communautés en santé de l'Ontario



BC Healthy Communities
People. Place. Potential.



OHCC enables communities to create and sustain positive change through equitable community engagement, intersectoral partnerships, political commitment, healthy public policy, and asset-based community development. **BC Healthy Communities** supports multi-sectoral groups to build their capacity to create healthy communities.