

Update on the Canada – U.S. Pan-Border Public Health Preparedness Council and an Introduction to Beyond the Border

Great Lakes Border Health Initiative 2012 Annual Conference

Mark Saigeon, A/Director, Office of Program Coordination and
Partnerships

April 24, 2012
Plymouth, Michigan, USA

Objectives

Pan-Border Public Health Preparedness Council

- To provide an update on the activities of the Pan-Border Public Health Preparedness Council.

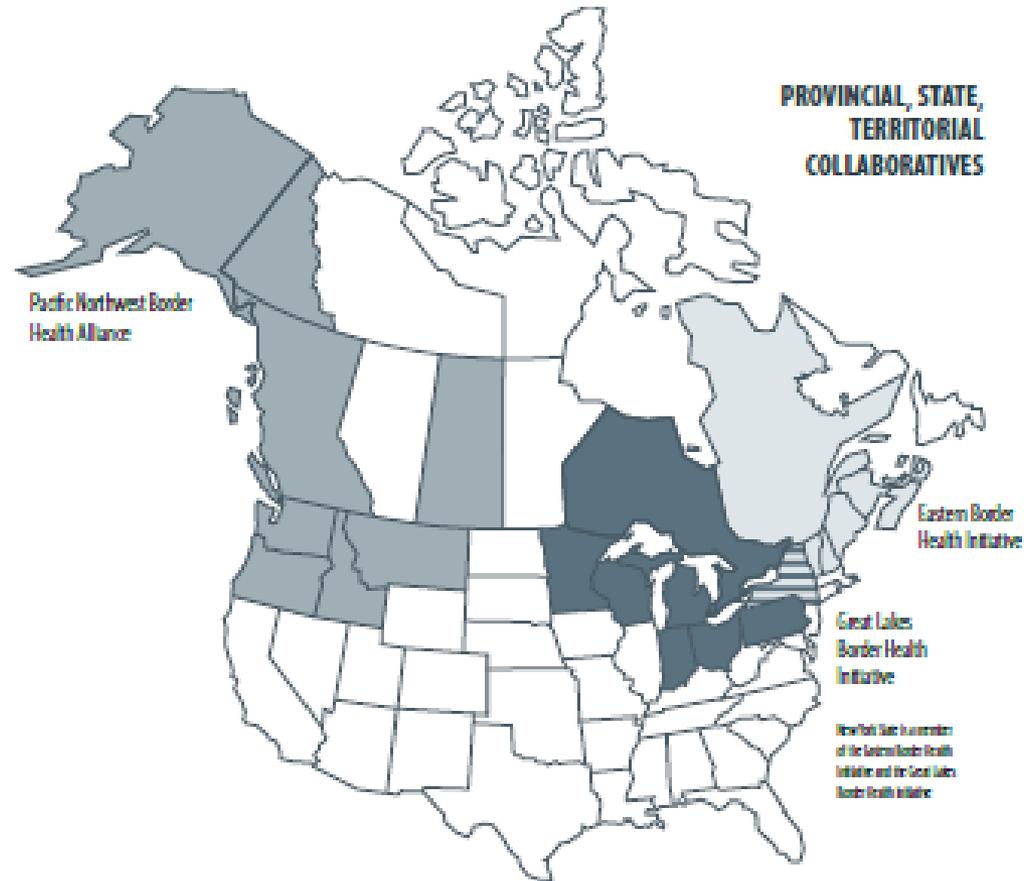
Beyond the Border

- To introduce the Beyond the Border vision, its corresponding Action Plan and the intended role of health partners in this work.

Pan-Border Public Health Preparedness Council



Regional Collaboratives



Council Mandate

- To facilitate Canada - U.S. border collaborations to collectively strengthen the capacity at various levels of government to detect and respond to public health threats across the Canada - U.S. border.
- Council Co-Chairs:
 - Canada: Lise Gauthier, PHAC, Quebec Region
 - U.S.: Vacant since March 2012

Council Achievements

- Analysis of pan-border case studies leading to development of a standardized case study template.
- Repository of cross-border public health collaboration documents, e.g. Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, etc.
- Facilitating information sharing between the regional collaboratives through:
 - Council website (www.pbphpc.org);
 - Bi-monthly teleconference and annual face-to-face meetings; and,
 - Participation in regional collaboratives' meetings

Moving Forward

- Next PBPHPC Meeting is May 18, 2012 in Tacoma, Washington
- Draft agenda items includes discussions on:
 - U.S. Co-Chair vacancy
 - How to maintain Council with limited financial resources
 - Development of 2012 Council Workplan
 - How to leverage PBPHPC in work under the Beyond the Border Initiative

Beyond the Border: An Introduction



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

Canada 

Background

- On February 4, 2011, the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States issued *Beyond the Border: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness*.
- The Declaration established a new long-term partnership built upon a perimeter approach to security and economic competitiveness.



The Action Plan

- The action plan sets out joint priorities for achieving their vision within the four areas of cooperation identified in the Beyond the Border Declaration:
 1. Addressing threats early;
 2. Trade facilitation, economic growth and jobs;
 3. Cross-border law enforcement; and
 4. Critical infrastructure and cyber-security.
- 32 items in the action plan
 - One (1) item focuses on enhancing preparedness and response for health security threats



Role of Health Partners in BTB

Enhance our collective preparedness and response capacity for health security threats

- Four areas of focus:
 - a) Risk Assessment
 - b) Information Sharing
 - c) Cross-Border Partnerships
 - d) Interoperability
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) are working in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Canada to develop specific deliverables in each of the four areas

Moving Forward

- BTB complements existing initiatives, including the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI).
- PHAC and DHHS recognize that bi-national health emergency management reaches beyond the federal role.
- Cross border organizations are uniquely suited to facilitate discussions between federal and state/provincial levels of government on our shared emergency management objectives.
- It is hoped that these existing relationships can be leveraged to inform the implementation of BTB.



Questions?