



## Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance

*Consultation - Collaboration - Cooperation*

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# What is Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance (PNWBHA)?

A non-profit organization, the PNWBHA's mission is to promote public's health preparedness. The Alliance works toward this mission through its activities in seven essential areas:

- Disease epidemiology and surveillance, including food security
- Emergency management and public health preparedness
- Indigenous health
- Emergency medical services
- Public health laboratories
- Risk communication
- Public health law

The PNWBHA was founded in 2009 and is a member of the Canada-United States Pan Border Public Health Preparedness Council (PBPHPC)



# What Does PNWBHA Do?

- ▶ PNWBHA promotes public health preparedness by actively working to:
- ▶ Advocate the development and implementation of public preparedness policy;
- ▶ Facilitate the sharing of health and related information;
- ▶ Cooperate regionally, nationally and internationally with other organizations to promote public health preparedness;
- ▶ Encourage governments to provide sufficient resources for disease prevention, surveillance and the promotion and protection of the public's health
- ▶ Advance opportunities for professional development.



## What is PNWBHA's future direction?

PNWBHA's future direction is focused on sustaining and building current efforts to strengthen public health preparedness. This includes:

1. Providing a virtual community where public health preparedness stakeholders from throughout the Pacific Northwest can come together to engage in dialogue on public health preparedness issues
2. Coordinating and supporting the extension of existing arrangements for: information sharing and protection; cross border movement of healthcare personnel and resources: and sharing public health laboratory capacity, throughout the region
3. Developing, disseminating and maintaining a map of the public health and healthcare infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest, including an emergency response capability index

# Current Signatory Jurisdictions



Alaska



British Columbia



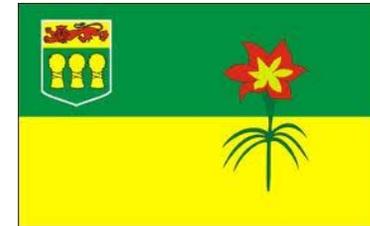
Idaho



Oregon



Montana



Saskatchewan



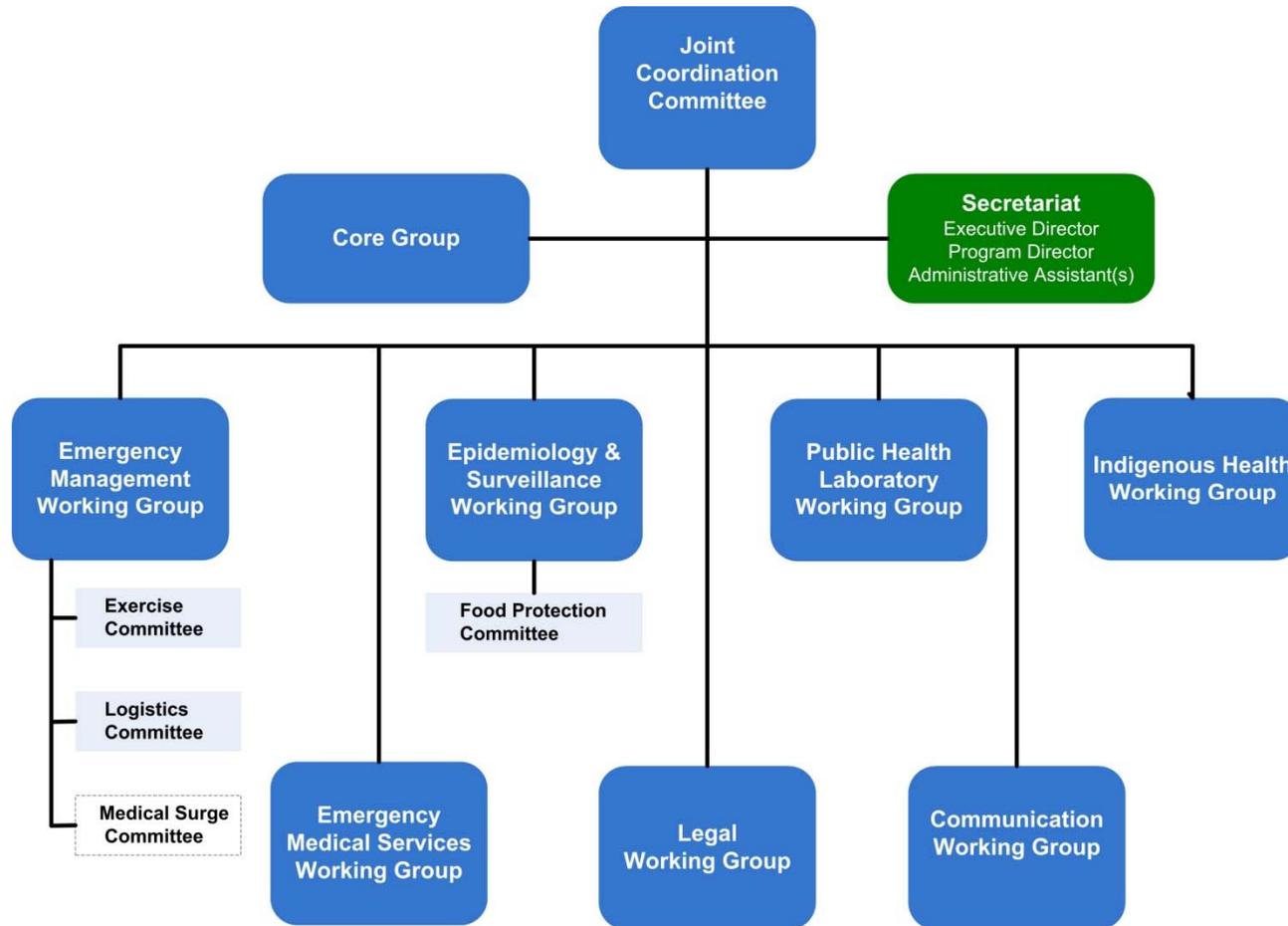
Washington



Yukon



# Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)



Note: Secretariat is administratively supported by the BC Ministry of Health Services and WA Department of Health

# JCC Membership

## Core

- Co-Chair (Canadian and United States representatives)
- Signatory Representatives

## Expanded

- Working Group Leads

## Liaison

- Representative from the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Representative from United States Department of Health and Human Services



# Past Accomplishments

- ▶ Numerous Cross-Border Agreements to Facilitate Cooperation
- ▶ 24/7 Emergency Contact List
- ▶ Electronic connectivity
  - BCCDC added to CDC Epi-X electronic alerting system
  - Adjacent states and provinces added to Washington State SECURES electronic alert network
- ▶ Cross Border Epidemiology Exercises
- ▶ Annual Cross-Border Communications Drills
- ▶ Successfully coordinate with CDC to arrange for BC CDC (Public Health Laboratory) to become a member of the LRN



# EMS Agreements & Capabilities

- ▶ Operational Plan for Moving Emergency Medical Services Staff and Resources Across the Washington and British Columbia Border <http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/WA-BC-EMSagreement.pdf>
- ▶ Process to accept EMS credentials from each jurisdiction
- ▶ 24/7 Contacts list for EMS and Customs
- ▶ 2010 Winter Olympics EMS Surge Response
- ▶ Identifying an EMS, common, interoperable communications frequency
- ▶ 2012 EMS Resources Capabilities Matrix for each PNWBHA Jurisdiction



# Ongoing Challenges

## ▶ Funding

- No dedicated funding stream
  - Loss of EWIDS Funding
  - Wa DOH under current leadership is committed to continuing this work

## ▶ Maintaining Momentum in these Economic Times

- Jurisdictions workload challenged
- Competing priorities all around



# Beyond The Border Action Plan

- ▶ Recognized as the next step
- ▶ PNWBHA is working to incorporate the concepts into its current and future workplans
- ▶ Feel that the concept will help to address some major issues
  - Critical Infrastructure
  - Disaster response and recovery
  - Health threats
  - Bi-National Emergency Management Planning





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**<http://www.pnwbha.org>**