

## **Development of priority indicators for surveillance of health equity in British Columbia**

### **Background (Optional):**

Over the past several years, the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) has partnered with its stakeholders to reduce health inequities. The 2011 PHSA report, "Towards reducing health inequities: A health system approach to chronic disease prevention", focused on actions the health system can take to reduce health inequities. One report recommendation involved establishing indicators to measure health equity.

### **Objectives:**

This project's objective was to identify a prioritized suite of health equity indicators that are important for the B.C. health system. These indicators are intended to support stakeholders' efforts in improving, monitoring, and measuring health equity work across B.C. and to improve provincial health surveillance consistency and comparability.

### **Target Groups:**

B.C.'s health system, other governmental and non-governmental agencies are the primary target groups for this project's outcomes, while any other agency doing similar work in other jurisdictions can also benefit from adapting our approach.

### **Activities:**

Guided by a technical working group of relevant stakeholders, PHSA led the following activities between 2012-2014: 1) developing and documenting the exploration of technical questions; 2) creating, administering, and collating online surveys; 3) organizing and facilitating meetings, discussion groups, and workshops (including creating support materials); and 4) presenting sample data analysis strategies and results for feedback.

### **Deliverables:**

The project outputs and deliverables included: identifying an equity indicator framework, completing a literature scan, identifying equity dimensions, developing definitions and descriptions of health equity indicators, identifying indicator selection criteria, implementing online rating surveys, and organizing indicator prioritization workshop. The final outcome achieved was a consensus list of 52 prioritized health equity indicators.

### **What are the implications of your practice or policy on research?**

The consensus-driven process led to a list of prioritized indicators for use in B.C. Future analyses will set the baseline to inform setting health equity targets for reducing provincial health inequities.