



Sustainable Development, Health  
and the Social Dimension:

Qualitative Research with a Panel of Experts

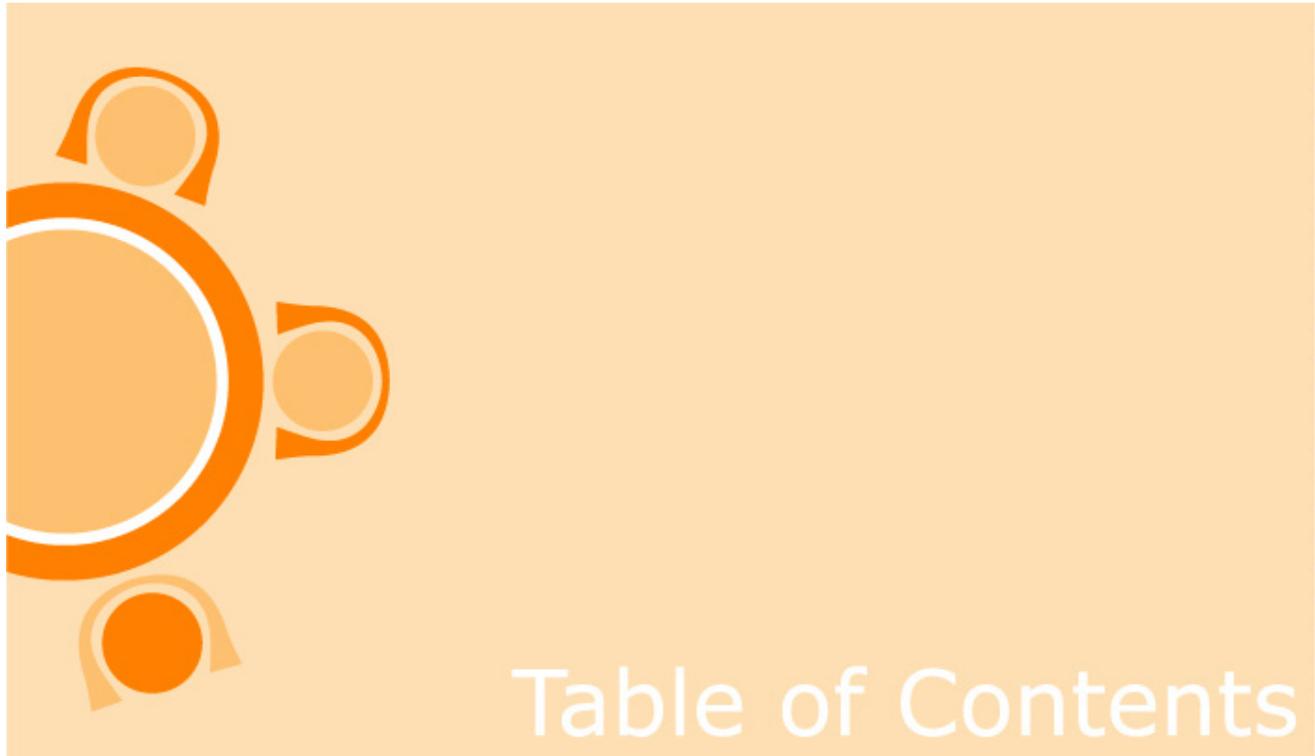
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## Executive Summary

### Background

Health Canada is interested in advancing its commitment in the area of sustainable development and in particular its understanding and knowledge around the social dimension. While the Department realizes that (i) social determinants are key predictors of human health and well-being and (ii) environmental and economic factors are inter-related with social determinants – the social dimension is not well defined, especially in the context of departmental issues and activities.

The health of Canadians can be linked to sustainable development through the “determinants of health”, mapped against three dimensions of sustainable development:

1. Social/Cultural
2. Nature/Environment
3. Economy

### The Challenge (Research Purpose and Objectives)

The Department is faced with the challenge of better understanding the health links between *social, environmental* and *economic* development. Health Canada outlined the requirement for an online panel that would bring together expert participants to discuss the key issues with the following main objectives:

1. To identify expectations for Health Canada on Sustainable Development in general;
2. To identify where Health Canada should direct its efforts in relation to the social domain of Sustainable Development;
3. To recommend strategic areas of action by Health Canada to demonstrate leadership on social Sustainable Development issues in the federal context;
4. To characterize possible short, intermediate and longer term goals for Health Canada on social Sustainable Development; and
5. To identify key partners and partnerships, domestically and internationally to promote sustainable health of people, communities and populations.

### The Approach (Methodology)

The online panel was part of an asynchronous dialogue that took place from March 26<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>, delivered through Ascentum’s online consultation and dialogue platform, *Dialoguecircles.com*<sup>TM</sup>.

Seven expert panellists were recruited to participate in the dialogue which was facilitated by a skilled moderator from Ascentum. The comments provided by the panellists reflected their views and opinions and cannot be extrapolated to a broader audience.

## What We Heard (Key Findings)

The dialogue was broken down into two main streams:

Part 1 – Exploring social sustainable development

Part 2 – Looking ahead: social sustainable development in Health Canada

### **Part 1 – Exploring social sustainable development**

#### **Expectations for Health Canada on Sustainable Development in General:**

- *Sustainable development reaches across disciplines and sectors. Health Canada needs to examine issues beyond human health to include the environment - both physical and social, standard of living, access to education and other services.*
- *In order to get a comprehensive view of sustainable development, Health Canada should examine indicators for human wellbeing and start to establish links to other government departments that work in these areas.*
- *A comprehensive definition of health that includes health promotion can help the Department strengthen its understanding and commitment to a sustainable development-based approach to health.*
- *Health Canada needs to integrate Sustainable Development into departmental decision-making.*

More specifically, in terms of the health linkages between social, environmental and economic pillars, participants sent a clear signal that there are challenges that need to be overcome globally. These include the challenges that physical and/or natural scientists face in general, in dealing with social science concepts, and the contradiction between narrowly focused administrative and organizational structures (silos, stovepipes and solitudes) in contrast to the large, horizontal nature of the sustainability issues and challenges that require integrated, transdisciplinary responses. **Education** was seen as a possible response to this challenge. Specifically, it was suggested that sustainability education become a 'cross-curricular' requirement at all levels of formal education. Supportive activity was cited through *Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)*, an initiative dedicated to developing and incorporating education for sustainable development into the formal, non-formal and informal education systems in Canada.

A second area explored in response to the challenge outlined above was the **Millenium Ecosystem Assessment**. The assessment looks at ecosystems in a much broader sense than the resources that are extracted and used; in particular is the direct connection of ecosystems with human health and wellbeing. The approach bridges the divide between the "pure" sciences (the functioning of the ecosystem) and the other drivers (direct and indirect) of change.

## The Social Dimension of Sustainable Development

The discussion then shifted to the *social dimension* of sustainable development where the concept of **sustainable communities** was introduced by a panellist as a means to:

- Link the federal departments with a particular interest in the 'social dimension' (such as Health Canada, Human Resources, Justice, Indian and Northern Affairs); and
- Make connections between the three dimensions of sustainable development (nature/environment, social/cultural, economy).

The concept of sustainable communities links health to other social issues (education, recreation, employment). Healthy communities were identified as sustainable communities. Building on this notion, a second linkage between health and the social dimension of sustainable development emerged: the **concept of equity**, and its link to health; most notably through the impact socio-economic inequity has on health and more broadly on quality of life.

A third concept introduced as a link between the social dimension of sustainable development and Health Canada was the **determinants of health**. Many important files that are managed by Health Canada – wait times, cancer, aboriginal health, pandemic preparation, tobacco, mental health – can be linked to social determinants of health such as education, employment, social environments, and physical environments for example. It was felt that there is an opportunity to take the determinants of health and interlace them with the components of sustainable development.

### Areas of Action

A key consideration raised in this dialogue was the concept of a 'positive health' approach versus a 'negative health' perspective. It was felt that this was an area where the intersection between sustainable development and the Department's mandate could be integrated. Specifically, this could be achieved by examining the links between the factors that are critical for sustaining life (climate, clean air, water and food) and positive health.

In terms of the role Health Canada could play, it was suggested that the Department should play a leadership role in connecting health and sustainability through education. This is consistent with Health Canada's mandate of health promotion, knowledge translation and communication. The key will be to frame health in a sustainability development context in order to derive the potential (and promising) benefits.

### **Part 2 – Looking ahead: social sustainable development in Health Canada**

The dialogue concluded by exploring the goals and key partners to help the Department promote sustainable health of people, communities and populations.

As a starting point, the suggestion was made that Health Canada needs to map out what is actually happening at this point in time across the Department. This will provide a baseline for moving forward. An initial assessment in the short term is a key to developing a holistic departmental approach.

The integration of activities across groups within Health Canada around sustainable development is a key step for the Department. This would provide a foundation to then begin to look outside and work with other departments, agencies and other non-government organizations. In this context, the issue of jurisdiction and understanding of what can be done by a federal department will likely require further thinking. A series of questions was presented to help the Department in identifying key areas of activity (see full report).

It was suggested that Health Canada examine existing priorities (in particular those areas where the Department is interfacing with citizens, communities and health care professionals) and determine how **sustainable communities, social determinants of health and equity** could be better reflected in these areas. The “greening” of Health Canada as a Department was also seen as an important opportunity, as well as the opportunity to lead a public education campaign around climate change and its impact on health.

## Sommaire

### La toile de fond

Santé Canada désire s'impliquer davantage dans le secteur du développement durable et plus précisément parfaire ses connaissances en ce qui a trait à la dimension sociale de ce dernier. Tout en étant conscient que (i) les facteurs sociaux jouent un rôle clé sur la santé de l'homme et de son bien-être, et que (ii) les facteurs environnementaux et économiques sont inter-reliés aux facteurs sociaux, il n'en reste pas moins que la dimension sociale reste floue surtout lorsqu'il est question d'activités et de préoccupations ministérielles.

On peut établir un rapport entre la santé des canadiens et le développement durable grâce aux « déterminants de la santé », et leurs liens avec les trois dimensions du développement durable :

1. le social et le culturel
2. la nature et l'environnement
3. l'économie

### Le défi (buts et objectifs de recherche)

Le Ministère est confronté à un défi de taille, celui de mieux comprendre les liens qui unissent le développement *social, environnemental* et *économique*. Pour relever ce défi, Santé Canada a souligné la nécessité de créer un panel en ligne qui rassemblerait des experts afin de discuter des enjeux clés, en respectant les objectifs principaux suivants :

1. Identifier les attentes de Santé Canada envers le développement durable en général;
2. Identifier où Santé Canada devrait diriger ses efforts quant au domaine social du développement durable;
3. Recommander des domaines stratégiques d'action pour Santé Canada afin que celui-ci démontre ses qualités de meneur concernant les enjeux sociaux du développement durable sur le plan fédéral;
4. Caractériser des buts potentiels à court, moyen et long termes pour Santé Canada en ce qui concerne le développement durable; et
5. Identifier les partenaires et associés clés, au niveau national et international, afin de promouvoir la santé durable des gens, des communautés et des populations.

### L'approche (méthodologie)

La rencontre en ligne a fait partie d'un dialogue asynchrone qui s'est déroulé du 26 au 30 mars par le biais de la plateforme en ligne Dialoguecircles.com™ d'Ascentum. Sept experts ont été recrutés afin de participer au dialogue qui était animé par un

modérateur compétent d'Ascentum. Les commentaires fournis par les panélistes reflétaient leurs points de vue et opinions et ne peuvent pas être attribués à un plus large public.

## **En rétrospective (constatations clés)**

Ce dialogue comportait deux volets principaux :

Partie 1- Une exploration du développement durable social

Partie 2- Aller de l'avant : le développement durable social au sein de Santé Canada

### **Partie 1- Une exploration du développement durable social**

#### **Les attentes de Santé Canada**

- *Le développement durable concerne tous les secteurs et disciplines. Santé Canada doit voir au-delà de la santé humaine et prendre en considération l'environnement – tant physique que social, le style de vie, l'accès à l'éducation et aux autres services.*
- *Pour bien comprendre le développement durable, Santé Canada doit étudier les facteurs qui contribuent au bien-être et mettre sur pied un réseau le reliant à d'autres ministères du gouvernement qui œuvrent dans ces mêmes domaines, afin de leur permettre de communiquer.*
- *Une définition exhaustive de la santé incluant la promotion de celle-ci peut aider le Ministère à mieux comprendre et à s'engager activement dans une approche de développement durable axée sur la santé.*
- *Santé Canada doit intégrer le développement durable dans la prise de décision au niveau ministériel.*

Plus précisément, en ce qui concerne les liens qu'a la santé avec les piliers social, environnemental et économique, les participants ont souligné qu'il y avait des défis à relever. Ceux-ci sont liés avec les défis auxquels sont confrontés les scientifiques de la physique et/ou de la nature lorsqu'ils étudient les concepts de la science sociale. On a aussi noté le conflit entre le manque d'envergure des structures administratives et organisationnelles (silos, tuyaux de poêle et solitudes) et l'importance des défis et des principaux enjeux qui exigent des réponses transdisciplinaires et structurées. Pour relever ce défi, on s'est tourné vers l'**éducation** sur le développement durable. En effet, on a suggéré qu'une telle éducation soit à la base de toute scolarité. On a mentionné une activité de soutien, « L'éducation pour un futur durable ». Cette initiative est dédiée au développement et à la mise en place d'une éducation sur le développement durable dans les systèmes d'éducation formels et informels du Canada.

De plus, on a décidé de se pencher sur un autre domaine, celui de ***l'Évaluation de l'écosystème du millénaire***, en réponse au défi mentionné précédemment. Cette

évaluation porte sur les écosystèmes au sens large, sans se limiter à l'évaluation des ressources utilisées ou dont on a tiré profit. Elle souligne le lien direct entre les écosystèmes et la santé ainsi que le bien-être. L'approche réduit l'écart entre les sciences dites « pures » (le fonctionnement des écosystèmes) et les autres inducteurs de changement (directs ou indirects).

## **La dimension sociale du développement durable**

Au fil de la discussion, on a abordé la *dimension sociale* du développement durable et un des membres du panel a mis de l'avant le concept de **communautés durables** comme moyen de :

- Rassembler les ministères fédéraux se préoccupant de la « dimension sociale » (comme Santé Canada, les Ressources Humaines, la Justice, les Affaires indiennes et du Grand Nord); et
- Créer un réseau entre les trois piliers du développement durable (nature/environnement, social/culturel, économie).

Le concept de communautés durables fait le lien entre la santé et les autres enjeux sociaux (l'éducation, les loisirs, l'emploi). On a identifié les communautés en santé comme étant des communautés durables. En se fondant sur cette notion, un deuxième chaînon entre la santé et la dimension sociale du développement durable a fait surface. En effet, on voit dès lors surgir la **notion d'équité** et ses rapports avec la santé, plus précisément en ce qui a trait à l'impact du manque d'équité socio-économique sur la santé et de façon plus générale, sur la qualité de vie.

Pour faire le lien entre Santé Canada et la dimension sociale du développement durable, on note un troisième concept : celui des **déterminants de la santé**. Santé Canada gère de nombreux dossiers : temps d'attente, cancer, santé des autochtones, préparations aux pandémies, tabac, santé mentale. Ces dossiers peuvent être liés aux déterminants sociaux de la santé tels que l'éducation, l'emploi, les environnements sociaux et physiques, par exemple. On a suggéré qu'il y aurait lieu de créer des liens entre les déterminants de la santé et le développement durable.

## **Champs d'action**

Lors du dialogue, on a insisté sur l'importance du concept de « santé positive » versus celui de « santé négative ». Encore une fois, on a vu un domaine où il serait possible d'intégrer le développement durable au mandat du Ministère. On pourrait le faire plus spécifiquement en examinant de plus près ce qui lie les éléments essentiels à la vie (climat, air propre, eau et nourriture) à une santé positive.

Quant au rôle que pourrait jouer Santé Canada, il a été suggéré qu'il se positionne en chef de file en se servant de l'éducation sur la durabilité pour faire comprendre les relations qui unissent la santé à la durabilité. Ceci rejoint le mandat de Santé Canada qui consiste à promouvoir la santé, le partage des connaissances et la communication.

Le point clé sera de définir la santé dans un contexte de développement durable afin d'en tirer tous les bénéfices possibles (et prometteurs).

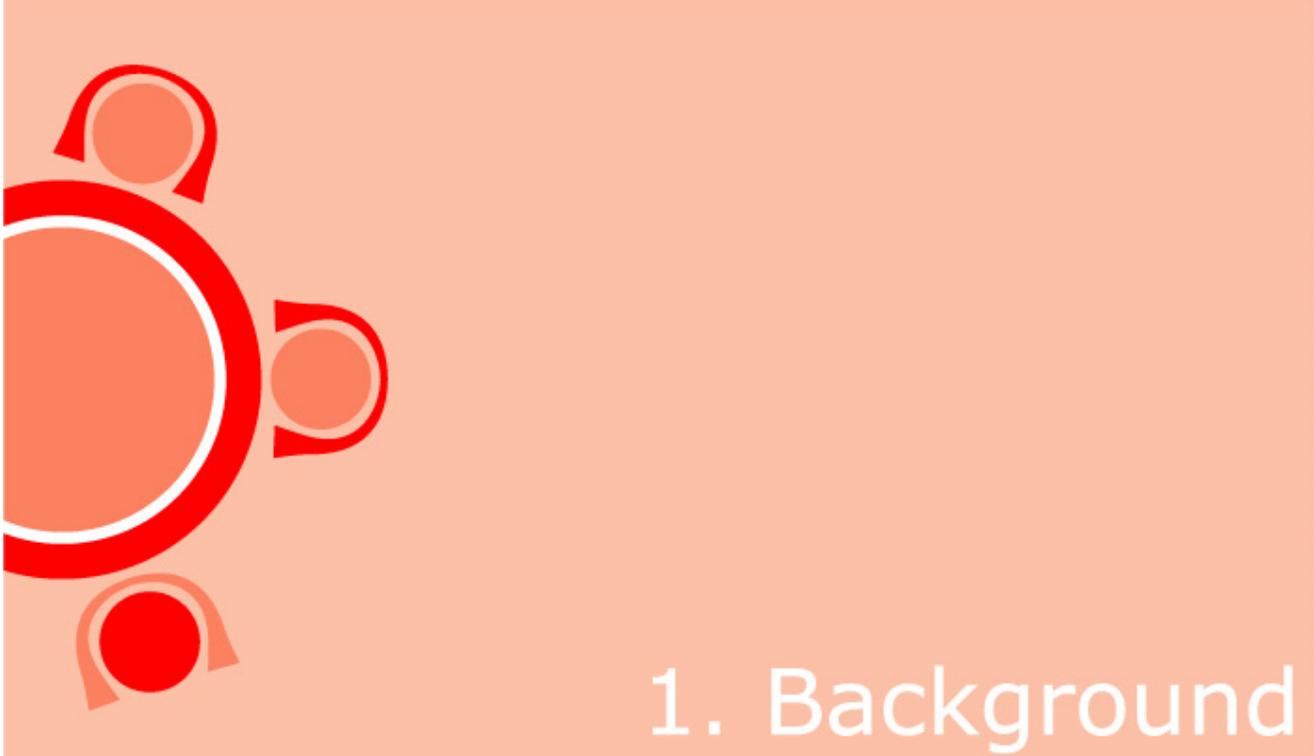
## **Partie 2- Aller de l'avant : le développement durable social au sein de Santé Canada**

Le dialogue s'est terminé sur l'étude des buts et des partenaires clés afin d'aider le Ministère à faire la promotion de la santé durable des gens, des communautés et des populations.

On a d'abord suggéré à Santé Canada de bien cerner la situation actuelle au sein du Ministère. Ces informations fourniront un fondement pour aller de l'avant. Une évaluation à court terme permettra de développer une approche ministérielle holistique.

L'intégration d'activités sur le développement durable au sein des groupes de Santé Canada est une étape extrêmement importante pour le Ministère. Cela fournira un fondement permettant par la suite de commencer à travailler avec d'autres Ministères, agences et organismes non-gouvernementaux. Dans ce contexte, il faudra réfléchir au problème de juridiction et comprendre ce que le Ministère fédéral est en mesure de faire. Une série de questions a été présentée au Ministère pour l'aider à mieux définir les domaines d'activité clés (voir le rapport complet).

On a suggéré que Santé Canada étudie les priorités déjà en place (plus spécifiquement les domaines dans lesquels le Ministère est impliqué avec les citoyens, les communautés et les professionnels des soins de la santé) et détermine comment les **communautés durables**, les **déterminants sociaux de la santé** et l'**équité** pourraient être plus visibles dans ces domaines. Ce fut aussi l'occasion de parler des conditions favorables qui s'offraient au Ministère pour devenir plus «vert» ainsi que de l'occasion de lancer une campagne pour éduquer le public sur les changements climatiques et leurs impacts sur la santé.



# 1. Background

*Societies will prosper if its citizens are healthy and citizens will be healthier if their society prospers.*

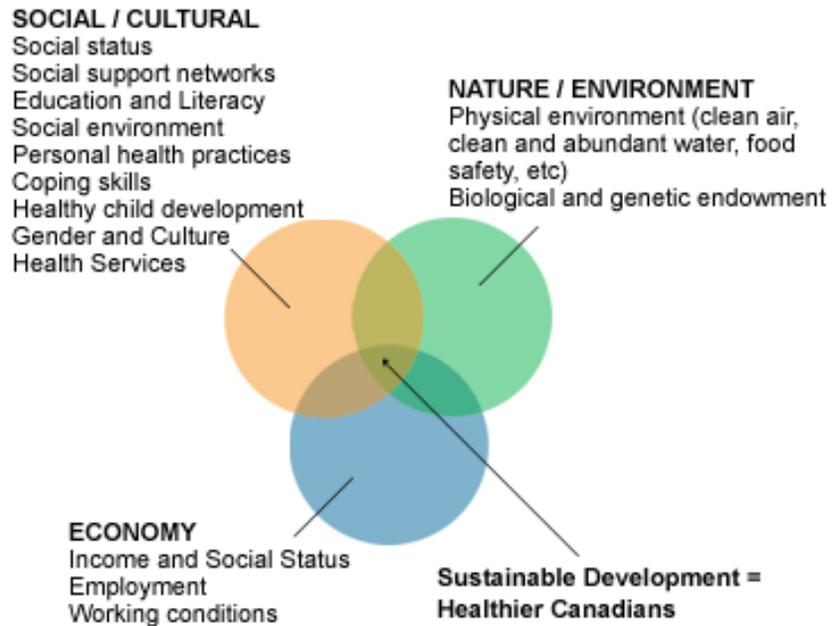
***Health Canada is interested in advancing its commitment to the area of Sustainable Development (SD) and in particular its understanding and knowledge around the social dimension of SD.***

Health Canada is interested in advancing its commitment in the area of sustainable development and in particular its understanding and knowledge around the social dimension. While the Department realizes that (i) social determinants are key predictors of human health and well-being and (ii) environmental and economic factors are inter-related with social determinants – the social dimension is not well defined, especially in the context of issues and activities.

In the Departmental context, sustainable development contributes to Health Canada's mandate – *To help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health - by incorporating economic, social and environmental elements.* In more concrete terms, the health of Canadians is linked to sustainable development through the "determinants of health", mapped against three dimensions of sustainable development:

4. Social/Cultural
5. Nature/Environment
6. Economy

Figure 1 – Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development



Traditionally, each dimension has been treated separately. However, sustainable development cannot occur without a healthy population; and the health of the population cannot be maintained without a healthy environment and strong economy.

### The Department’s Challenge

***The Department is faced with the challenge of better understanding the health links between social, environmental and economic development***

The Department is faced with the challenge of better understanding the health links between **social**, **environmental** and **economic** development, and to develop decision-making processes that:

- Take a long-term policy perspective
- Understand that compromises may be required amongst these dimensions and a balanced analysis is required to make informed decisions

To help address this challenge Health Canada convened a panel of experts to participate in an online dialogue to provide the Department with expert insight on the key issues at hand. In particular, Health Canada outlined the requirement for an online panel that would bring together expert participants to discuss the key issues with the following main objectives:

6. To identify expectations for Health Canada on Sustainable Development in general;
7. To identify where Health Canada should direct its efforts in relation to the social domain of Sustainable Development;
8. To recommend strategic areas of action by Health Canada to demonstrate leadership on social Sustainable Development issues in the federal context;
9. To characterize possible short, intermediate and longer term goals for Health Canada on social Sustainable Development; and
10. To identify key partners and partnerships, domestically and internationally to promote sustainable health of people, communities and populations.



## 2. Our Approach

The online panel was part of an asynchronous dialogue that took place from March 26<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>, delivered through Ascentum’s online consultation and dialogue platform, *Dialoguecircles.com*<sup>TM</sup>.

***Experts in the area of Sustainable Development were engaged in an online dialogue with the goal of addressing the five objectives identified by Health Canada.***

Experts in the area of Sustainable Development were engaged in an online dialogue with the goal of addressing the five objectives identified by Health Canada. For a detailed biography of each expert please see **Appendix A**. The approach included a group moderator who provided and answered questions in order to keep the conversation flowing; probed points made by panel members (to gain a deeper understanding of their meaning); and ensured that participants were active (sending reminder messages and preparing summaries of the dialogue).

A conversation guide was developed to provide the panellists with a contextual baseline to support the dialogue. The guide also outlined the key questions used by the moderator over the course of the five days. The questions were closely aligned with Health Canada’s five key objectives. The following table provides an overview of the questions and objectives:

Table 1 – Dialogue Objectives and Questions

<b>Part 1 – Exploring social sustainable development</b>		<b>March 26-29</b>
<b>Key Interventions/Questions</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	
<p><b>1. What are your expectations for Health Canada on sustainable development in general?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the health linkages between social/environmental/economic pillars</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Where do you think Health Canada should invest its efforts in relation to the social dimension of sustainable development?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifically in the federal government context</li> <li>• Within a cluster (especially social) of federal departments?</li> </ul> <p><b>3. What are the possible key elements of a 'new strategy' or areas of action that would begin to address social sustainability?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would this demonstrate leadership by Health Canada?</li> <li>• What are the timelines associated with these elements or areas of action?</li> </ul>	<p>1. To identify expectations of Health Canada on Sustainable Development in general</p> <p>2. To identify where Health Canada should direct its efforts in relation to the social dimension of Sustainable Development</p> <p>3. To recommend strategic areas of action by Health Canada to demonstrate leadership on social Sustainable Development issues in the federal context</p>	
<b>Part 2 – Looking Ahead: SSD in Health Canada</b>		<b>March 30</b>
<b>Key Interventions/Questions</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	
<p><b>1. What would you consider success from a social sustainability perspective?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some of the short, medium and long-term goals?</li> <li>• Who are some of the key players and potential partners to help achieve these goals?</li> </ul>	<p>4. To characterize possible short, intermediate and longer term goals for Health Canada on social Sustainable Development</p> <p>5. To identify key partners and partnerships, domestically and internationally to promote sustainable health of people, communities and populations</p>	

As outlined in the table above, the dialogue was broken down into two main streams:

- Part 1 – Exploring social sustainable development
- Part 2 – Looking ahead: social sustainable development in Health Canada



## 3. What We Heard - Dialogue Results

***The online dialogue was available to the group of experts over the course of 5 days.***

The online dialogue was available to the group of experts over the course of 5 days (March 26<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>). During that period, five of the seven experts made submissions to the forum. A total of 50 posts were made by the expert panellists.

### **Exploring social sustainable development**

Expectations for Health Canada

The dialogue started with an opening statement from the moderator. This was followed by an opening question that asked each participant to state their expectations for Health Canada on sustainable development in general (Objective 1).

The opening question generated insightful input from the panellists. The following excerpts summarize the ideas provided:

- *Sustainable development reaches across disciplines and sectors. Health Canada needs to examine issues beyond human health to include the environment - both physical and social, standard of living, access to education and other services.*

- *In order to get a comprehensive view of sustainable development, Health Canada should examine indicators for human wellbeing and start to establish links to other government departments that work in these areas.*
- *A comprehensive definition of health that includes health promotion can help the Department strengthen its understanding and commitment to a sustainable development-based approach to health.*
- *Health Canada needs to integrate Sustainable Development into departmental decision-making.*

***In terms of the health linkages between social; environmental; and economic pillars, participants sent a clear signal that there are challenges that need to be overcome.***

More specifically, in terms of the health linkages between social, environmental and economic pillars, participants sent a clear signal that there are challenges that need to be overcome globally. This sentiment was expressed at the beginning of the dialogue when reference was made to the fact that almost nothing has been done in the social area with respect to the implementation of the Brundtland Commission recommendations.

An explanation to this relative inaction that was well received by other panellists revolved around the challenges that physical and/or natural scientists face in general dealing with social science concepts. This was viewed as a major hurdle that needs to be overcome.

This sentiment was reinforced when it was expressed as a microcosm of a much larger challenge, namely the contradiction between narrowly focused administrative and organizational structures (silos, stovepipes and solitudes) in contrast to the large, horizontal nature of the sustainability issues and challenges that require integrated, transdisciplinary responses.

***Education was seen as one possible response by making sustainability education a 'cross-curricular' requirement at all levels of formal education.***

***Education*** was seen as a possible response to this challenge. Specifically, it was suggested that sustainability education become a 'cross-curricular' requirement at all levels of formal education. This suggestion fits with the focus of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UNESD). The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) approach involves looking beyond just Environmental Education and is not confined to formal education. In Ontario, the Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario (EASO) has been established to provide a forum for collaboration and leadership to advance education for thriving, diverse communities and ecosystems.

Building on the education theme, the concept of 'sustainability literacy' was presented and the desire expressed that it achieve greater prominence in primary and secondary education.

*"At the post-secondary level understanding sustainability issues and challenges... (along with) responses and solutions, should be a core competence expected of all undergraduates, and a core theme of all graduate and professional education".*

Expert panellist

***A second approach introduced was the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment.***

A second approach introduced in response to the challenge outlined above was the ***Millenium Ecosystem Assessment***. The assessment looks at ecosystems in a much broader sense than the resources that are extracted and used; in particular is the direct connection of ecosystems with human health and wellbeing. The approach bridges the divide between the "pure" sciences (the functioning of the ecosystem) and the other drivers (direct and indirect) of change.

#### The Social Dimension of Sustainable Development

The second question presented to the panellists was introduced to shift the discussion to the social dimension of sustainable development (Objective 2).

In response to this shift, the concept of ***sustainable communities*** was introduced by a panellist as a means to:

- Link the federal departments with a particular interest in the 'social dimension' (such as Health Canada, Human Resources, Justice, Indian and Northern Affairs); and
- Make connections between the three dimensions of sustainable development (nature/environment, social/cultural, economy).

***The concept of sustainable communities links health to other social issues. Healthy communities are sustainable communities.***

The concept of sustainable communities links health to other social issues (education, recreation, employment). Healthy communities were identified as sustainable communities. While it was recognized that there were jurisdictional challenges, it was also felt that communities provide a great frame because so much of what really matters to us is lived at the local level. The collective efforts of a community and support from others are key when trying to change behaviour.

**A second linkage provided between health and the social dimension of sustainable development was the concept of equity.**

A second linkage provided between health and the social dimension of sustainable development was the concept of **equity**. The point was raised that equity and health are linked in many ways – most notably through the impact socio-economic inequality has on health and more broadly on quality of life.

*"It is often the most economically deprived communities where environmental loadings are especially acute (urban air quality, industrial pollution, and so on), and local health is poor (lack of facilities, poor diets, hesitancy to visit health care professionals, etc)".*

Expert panellist

Further support for the concept of equity was presented based on the process of reconciliation of the three imperatives of sustainable development; (1) the ecological imperative; (2) the social imperative; and (3) the economic imperative. Equitable access to these three imperatives is a key factor to success.

**In response to the concepts of sustainable communities and equity, it was felt that Health Canada can do more than it is currently doing.**

In response to the concepts of sustainable communities and equity, it was felt that Health Canada can do more than it is currently doing.

*"While Health Canada does include 'sustainable communities' as part of their first Theme, the focus is too narrow and it does not grasp the larger potential of this idea. The social dimension of sustainable development can be a strong policy lever for Health Canada".*

Expert panellist

**A third concept introduced as link between the social dimension of sustainable development and Health Canada was the determinants of health.**

A third concept introduced as a link between the social dimension of sustainable development and Health Canada was the **determinants of health**. Many important files that are managed by Health Canada – wait times, cancer, aboriginal health, pandemic preparation, tobacco, mental health – can be linked to social determinants of health such as education, employment, social environments, and physical environments for example.

While work has been done in this area at both the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada, there is an opportunity to take the determinants of health and interlace them with the components of sustainable development. **For instance the intersection between sustainable development and Health Canada's mandate can be integrated by looking at improving those factors that play a critical role in sustaining life and positive health such as climate, access to clean air, water and food.** The World Health Organization provides some parallels for further

investigation<sup>1</sup>.

Further support was expressed for this link by direct reference to the opening paragraph of Chapter 6 of Agenda 21 on Health. In this paragraph the close interconnection is made between health and development.

*"Action items under Agenda 21 must address the primary health needs of the world's population, since they are integral to the achievement of the goals of sustainable development and primary environmental care".*

Expert panellist

***The overall objective of Swedish public health policy is to create social conditions that will ensure good health for the entire population.***

An international reference was also made to the Swedish Public Health objectives and how the Swedes are working to link environment and health objectives more closely. Specifically the overall objective of Swedish public health policy is to create social conditions that will ensure good health for the entire population. Since 2002, to improve public health and reduce the differences in health among various population groups, the Swedish Government submitted its Public Health Objective Bill. The bill introduced the concept of sustainable health development.<sup>2</sup> The overriding objective of this bill was increased equity when it came to allocating priorities in public health work. The objectives proposed by public health are based on health determinants. Living conditions and lifestyles are seen as having important effects on health. The committee's proposed vision is "to achieve good health on equal terms". Six overarching guidelines for social development form the basis of the national public health objectives.<sup>3</sup>

#### Areas of Action

Building on the concepts introduced around the social dimension and the links made to Health Canada, the next area of the dialogue examined some of the more specific strategies or areas of action for the Department to begin to address social sustainability (Objective 3).

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<sup>1</sup> For information see: 'Sustainable Development and Health: Concepts, Principles, and Framework for Action for European Cities' at [www.euro.who.int/document/E53218.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/document/E53218.pdf)  
See also: <http://www.who.int/wssd/en/>

<sup>2</sup> For more information see: 'The Swedish Public Health Policy and the National Institute of Public Health' at [http://www.fhi.se/templates/Page\\_\\_\\_\\_4835.aspx](http://www.fhi.se/templates/Page____4835.aspx)

<sup>3</sup> Available online at: [http://www.fhi.se/templates/Page\\_\\_\\_\\_4835.aspx](http://www.fhi.se/templates/Page____4835.aspx)

**A key consideration raised in the dialogue was the 'positive health' approach versus a 'negative health' perspective.**

A key consideration raised in the dialogue was the concept of a 'positive health' approach versus a 'negative health' perspective. It was felt that this was an area where the intersection between sustainable development and the Department's mandate could be integrated. Specifically, this could be achieved by examining the links between the factors that are critical for sustaining life (climate, clean air, water and food) and positive health. Two challenges were identified as key challenges in making this strategic link between health and the environment; (1) a lack of available data and (2) an inadequate recognition from the health care system.

**A healthy population is one that understands the determinants of health so they can make informed choices and better understand the risks to their health.**

The importance of education was evident throughout the dialogue. In terms of the role Health Canada could play, the point was made that promotion of positive health involves formal, non-formal and informal education. Specifically, a healthy population is one that understands the determinants of health so they can make informed choices and better understand the risks and benefits of these choices to their health. Health Canada should play a leadership role in connecting health and sustainability through education. This is consistent with Health Canada's mandate of health promotion, knowledge translation and communication. The key will be to frame health in a sustainability development context in order to derive the potential (and promising) benefits.

Finally it was suggested that Health Canada should develop a new vision statement that reflects a holistic approach. The following was provided as a starting point:

*The health of individual Canadians is dynamically related to the physical health of the communities in which they reside. Disease prevention has many diverse interconnections with the use of chemicals, quality of the air we breathe and water we drink, our access to safe food and transportation choices, to the sustainable disposal of our waste.*

Expert panellist

### What Does Success Look Like

The focus of the final section of the dialogue was to identify goals and key partners to help the Department promote sustainable health of people, communities and populations (Objectives 4 & 5).

The panellists were asked to identify what key activities would demonstrate success from their perspective in the short, medium

and long-term in advancing sustainable development in Health Canada (this could include potential collaborations or partnering).

**Health Canada needs to map out what is actually happening at this point in time across the Department to provide a baseline for moving forward.**

As a starting point, the suggestion was made that Health Canada needs to map out what is actually happening at this point in time across the Department. This will provide a baseline for moving forward. An initial assessment in the short term is a key to developing a holistic departmental approach.

Working across departmental groups or divisions is no easy task however. An interesting parallel was drawn to an earlier discussion around stovepipes and silos. One expert panellist suggested that similar challenges exist within Departments when different groups fail to see the connection amongst one other. The integration of activities across groups within Health Canada around sustainable development is a key step for the Department. This would provide a foundation to then begin to look outside and work with other departments, agencies and other non-government organizations. In this context, the issue of jurisdiction and understanding of what can be done by a Federal Department will likely require further thinking.

**The issue of jurisdiction and understanding of what can be done by a Federal Department will likely require further thinking.**

A series of questions were presented to help the Department in identifying key areas of activity:

1. *What departmental alliances have to be formed to effect a health and environment working agenda?*
2. *What are the indicators for success for an integrated program addressing the health of Canadians and equally the health of their communities?*
3. *What are the existing networks, both social and environmental, in this domain?*
4. *What partnerships need to be struck in civil society to achieve departmental objectives?*
5. *What research and educational partnerships have to be established?*
6. *What is the value-added role the Department can play in stimulating network density, strategic partnerships and research/educational alliances in this domain?*
7. *What are the core values, messages and how can they be diffused throughout Canadian society, embracing its plurality, in addition to the revitalization of ParticipACTION?*
8. *Should ParticipACTION be expanded to include ClimateACTION?*

An important connection was made to the main themes discussed throughout the dialogue. It was suggested that Health Canada

**Health Canada should examine existing priorities and determine how sustainable communities, social determinants of health and equity could be better reflected in these areas.**

**There are opportunities for the Department to employ 'green' procurement policies in the area of healthcare goods and services and the operation of healthcare facilities.**

examine existing priorities (in particular those areas where the Department is interfacing with citizens, communities and health care professionals) and determine how **sustainable communities, social determinants of health and equity** could be better reflected in these areas.

Furthermore, it was suggested that this examination would likely produce better results if it were undertaken in manageable pieces. For example, a pilot approach with one or two better known program areas within the Department.

Another area of opportunity brought forward discussed opportunities for the Department to employ 'green' procurement policies in the area of healthcare goods and services and the operation of healthcare facilities. Improving pollution control, management of harmful waste materials and designing more efficient buildings would have a positive impact and also demonstrate leadership and commitment at the Federal level. Reference was made to a large international NGO (Healthcare Without Harm) as a group that has been successful in brokering public-private partnerships.

Finally, it was suggested that Health Canada has a great opportunity to lead a public education campaign around climate change and its impact on health.



## 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The dialogue produced valuable insight that will help Health Canada continue to move forward in the area of Sustainable Development, specifically within the social dimension.

Three key themes emerged as recommended areas of emphasis for the Department:

1. **Sustainable Communities:** Adopting the concept of *sustainable communities* to frame issues of social sustainability and to demonstrate the three dimensions in concrete terms;
2. **Social Determinants of Health:** The importance of the *social determinants of health* in providing a connection to sustainable development within Health Canada and important linkages to prevention programmes articulated in Agenda 21; and
3. **Equity:** *Equity* as an important linkage between health and the social dimension, particularly in addressing those who are the "health disadvantaged".

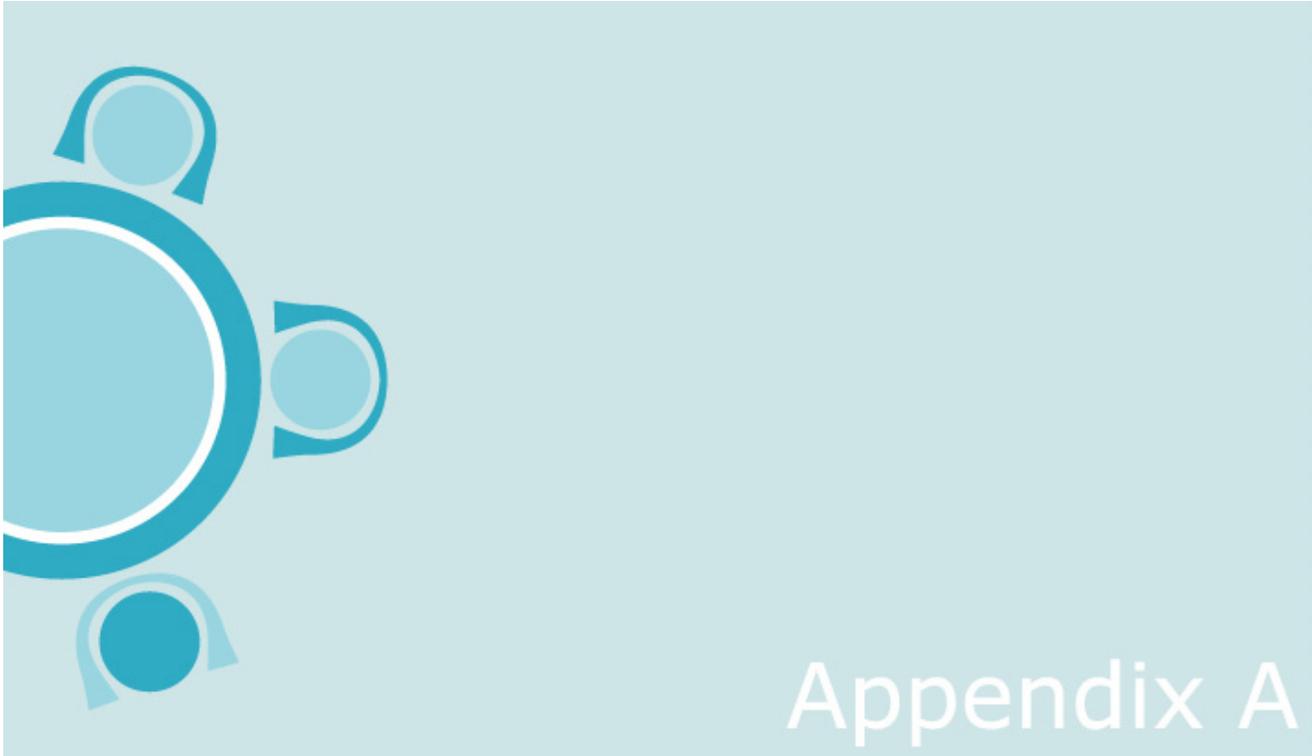
Cross-cutting each of these thematic areas is the role of **education** in advancing sustainable development.

In considering the themes that arose from the discussion what became clear is that much work is still needed in this area. However, the themes that evolved from the e-dialogue are closely aligned to those stated in Health Canada's sustainable development strategy of 2007-2010 and will work towards achieving some of the recommended goals made by the panellists.

From 2007 to 2010 Health Canada is committed to adhere to the following themes and take the following steps to complete these objectives:

- 1. Helping to create healthy and social physical environments** – Actions under this theme involve integrating environmental, social and economic considerations into Health Canada's policies, plans and programs. In the long term, the continued amalgamation of these three pillars will contribute to the goal of achieving more sustainable communities.
- 2. Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities** – Targets under this theme not only refer to what Health Canada does but the way it works. The long term objective of this theme is to reduce the ecological footprint of all Health Canada's operations and activities. In turn, this will be one important step towards improving the physical environments and achieving more sustainable communities.
- 3. Integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes and advancing the social pillar of sustainability.** This theme brings to light how our social and cultural conditions shape the way we perceive and interact with the world and how these aspects are intertwined with our own health. This will be a critical step in the internal education process of Departments and branches across Health Canada to consider sustainable development in their decision making.

Of relevance is that the promotion and integration of sustainable development within Health Canada will be accomplished by following key principles that resonate closely to some of the points of views that were raised throughout the e-dialogue: shared responsibility, integrated approaches, equity, accountability and continuous improvement.



## **Panellist Biographies**

### **David Bell**

Dr. David Bell (PhD, Political Science, Harvard University, 1969) was Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (1981-87) and Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies (1992-1996) at York University. Formerly Director of the York Centre for Applied Sustainability which he founded in 1996, David is Chair Of the Board of Directors of Parc-Downsview-Park Inc. ([www.pdp.ca](http://www.pdp.ca)), a federal Crown Corporation whose mandate is to create for the people of Canada an "urban greenspace for the enjoyment of future generations" on the lands of former CFB Downsview. He is also a Chair of Learning for a Sustainable Future ([www.lsf-1st.ca](http://www.lsf-1st.ca)), and a member of the National Round Table on Environment and Economy ([www.nrtee-trnee.ca](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca)).

Dr. Bell created a series of 12 one hour radio broadcasts entitled "Sustainability: Canadian and Global Perspectives" which has been broadcast six times in Canada. His recent papers and chapters include "Governance Implications of Sustainable Transportation Policy" which he presented to the International Forum On Strategy and Policy for Sustainable Transportation Development in China (June 2005, Beijing); "Voluntary Codes and the New Sustainability Paradigm" in Wes Cragg (ed.) Ethics Codes, Corporations and the Challenge of Globalization (Edward Elgar, 2005); "The Role of Government in Advancing Corporate Sustainability" (background paper for the G8 Environmental Futures Forum, 2002); "Towards a National Sustainable Development

Framework for Jamaica: National Sustainable Development Framework Scan and Approaches for Process Management” (for the ENACT Project/Government of Jamaica, 2003); “Sustainable Urban Communities in Canada: From Rio to Johannesburg” (for the Canadian Earth Summit Secretariat, 2001); and “Advancing Community Sustainable Development in the Ontario Region: The Role of the Government of Canada,” (for Environment Canada, 2001). He is the co-author (with Glen Toner) of 2 chapters in the UBC Press book, Sustainable Production (Glen Toner ed.) published in the spring of 2006.

A consultant and advisor to governments at the local, provincial and national levels in Canada; and to the Government of Jamaica, Dr. Bell was Honorary Theme Editor of the Sustainable Development Theme of the Encyclopedia of the Life Support Systems and was a founding core faculty member of the Sustainable Enterprise Academy.

<http://www.lsf-lst.ca/en/about/documents/Bell--CurrentbioJuly2006.doc>

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## **Ann Dale**

Ann Dale is a faculty member with the School of Environment and Sustainability at Royal Roads University. Professor Dale holds a Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Community Development and is a Trudeau Fellow ([www.trudeaufoundation.ca](http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca)), as well as a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Sciences. She chairs the Canadian Consortium for Sustainable Development Research (CCSDR), a consortium of all the heads of research institutes across Canada, and is active in the Canadian environmental movement.

Dr. Dale chairs an organization she created, the National Environmental Treasure (the NET) and is the Executive Co-ordinator, Research and Public Policy for the Canadian Biodiversity Institute. From 1998-2000, she led an energy efficiency program on behalf of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. Previously, she was an Executive with the Federal Government, and was one of the two public servants behind the creation of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE). In 1987-1988, she was a senior advisor to the first Deputy Minister, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and in 1986, served as the Assistant Director of Policy, Planning and Systems for the Privy Council Office. Previously, she managed the work of two of the Neilson Task Forces on Program Review - Natural Resources and Regulatory Reform. She has also worked with the Office of Regulatory Reform, the D'Avignon Commission and the Anti-Inflation Board, from 1976 to 1985.

Dr. Dale is one of the General Series Editors for the Sustainable Development Series published by UBC Press. She is a member of the Working Party on Biotechnology, Sustainable Development and Canada's Future Economy, CBAC, a Board Member of the World Fisheries Trust and the Advisory Committee to the Montreal Institute for the Environment. Dr. Dale holds degrees in psychology and public administration (major in

environmental studies) from Carleton University, and a doctorate in Natural Resources Sciences, McGill University. Current research areas include governance, social capital and sustainable community development, biodiversity policy, and deliberative electronic dialogues ([www.edialogues.ca](http://www.edialogues.ca)).

She is a recipient of the 2001 Policy Research Initiative Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Policy for her most recent book, *At the edge: sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*.

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### **Susan Elliot**

Dr. Susan Elliott is Professor, School of Geography and Earth Sciences, and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at McMaster University. Dr. Elliott's research and teaching interests revolve around environmental and public health. She has a long-standing interest in the area of waste management and community impacts and is adept at both quantitative and qualitative modes of investigation. Susan has been a member of the McMaster faculty since 1994.

Susan holds an undergraduate degree in Urban and Environmental Studies combined with Sociology from Brock University (1985), and MA (1987) and PhD (1992) degrees in health geography from McMaster. Her first tenure-track position was at the University of Victoria where she worked in the Geography Department until 1994, when she returned to McMaster's School of Geography.

Susan applies a transdisciplinary approach to her research on human impacts on environment-health relationships. Working with researchers from several social and health sciences allows a more comprehensive approach to problems involving complex questions that capture the interests of health geographers. Working in large interdisciplinary teams, long a McMaster hallmark, provides a stimulating intellectual and learning environment for both faculty and graduate students.

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/geo/faculty/elliott/>

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### **Linda A. Lusby**

Linda Lusby is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Her academic background includes a BHEc from Mount Saint Vincent University, an MSc. from the University of Alberta and an LLB from Dalhousie University. While at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, England, 1999–2001, she conducted a comparative analysis of governance issues in biotechnology and worked on the development of a model code presenting a harmonized

approach to risk management, precaution and assignment of liability for products of agricultural biotechnology.

Prof. Lusby has been an active participant in national, regional and international standards organizations for many years. She served as the Chair of the Standards Council of Canada from 1998 – 2001 and in that capacity represented Canada on the Council and Technical Management Board of ISO and chaired an international ad hoc committee on privacy. During her tenure as Chair she was instrumental in the development of Canada's first National Standards Strategy. In 2001 – 2002 she served as President of the Pan American Standards Commission. Currently she is a member of the Board of Directors of CSA Group and serves on and/or chairs a number of standing committees and sub-boards of that organization.

Prof. Lusby is Vice-Chair of the Science Advisory Board for Health Canada and serves on the S&T Advisory Board Panel on Environment and Health for Environment Canada. She was appointed to the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee in 2003. She is a Fellow of LEAD International and a member of the core group on food security for that organization. She received a University of Alberta Alumni Honours Award in 2000 for distinguished professional and community service.

<http://cbac-cccb.ca/epic/site/cbac-cccb.nsf/en/ah00339e.html>

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## **James Meadowcroft**

Dr. Meadowcroft is a Professor in the Department of Political Science and in the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University. Before coming to Carleton he was a Reader in the Department of Politics at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom. He did undergraduate work in political science at McGill University before carrying out his doctoral studies at Oxford University.

Trained as a political theorist, Dr. Meadowcroft has spent much of the last decade researching the politics of the environment and sustainable development. In particular, he has examined the relationship between democratic decision making and sustainable development and the role of public planning in the sustainability transition. Most recently he has collaborated with other scholars to assess how governments in developed countries have implemented sustainable development since it came to international prominence with the publication of the Brundtland Report in 1987.

Dr. Meadowcroft is a general editor of the International Political Science Review and co-editor of the Journal of Political Ideologies. His publications include: *Conceptualising the State* (Oxford University Press, 1995); *Democracy and the Environment* (ed., with William Lafferty, Edward Elgar, 1996); *Planning for Sustainability* (ed., with Michael Kenny, Routledge, 1999); and *Implementing Sustainable Development: Strategies and Initiatives in High Consumption Societies* (ed., with William Lafferty, Oxford University

Press, 2000). He has also published widely in academic journals on the environment and sustainable development.

[http://www.carleton.ca/cu/research/chairs/canada\\_chairs/meadowcroft.html](http://www.carleton.ca/cu/research/chairs/canada_chairs/meadowcroft.html)  
[http://www.ec.gc.ca/seminar/James\\_Meadowcroft\\_e.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/seminar/James_Meadowcroft_e.html)

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## **Ken Ogilvie**

Ken Ogilvie is the Executive Director of Pollution Probe, one of Canada's most distinguished environmental groups.

Ken joined Pollution Probe in October 1995 after serving for almost two years as the Executive Coordinator of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy. His position previous to that was Manager of Policy Coordination for the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy. He has also worked for Environment Canada and the Manitoba Department of Environment.

Ken has 25 years of experience in government, institutional and not-for-profit organization positions, ranging from project engineering to policy development and public advocacy. He has had international experience as the Acting Director of the federal Great Lakes Program and as a lecturer on sustainable development institutions, tools and techniques in Malaysia and Romania. He is also actively involved in environmental standard setting work, especially work related to the ISO 14000 series of environmental management standards.

Ken is currently serving on several boards, task forces, and advisory panels, some of which include: Vice-Chair of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy; Member of the Board of Directors of Sustainable Development Technology Canada; Board Member and Executive Committee Member of BIOCAP Canada; Member of the Advisory Panel to the Federal Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development; and Member of the Advisory Panel to the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

<http://www.sdtc.ca/en/about/boards/ogilviek.htm>

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## **David Runnels**

David Runnalls is President of International Institute for Sustainable Development. He has served as Co-Chair of the China Council Task Force on WTO and Environment. David was the Leopold Fellow at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a member of the federal External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation (EACSR). He serves as Chair of the Adjudication Panel for the ALCAN Prize for Sustainability. He is a

member of the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies of the United Nations University. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee on Partnerships to the Minister for International Cooperation; a member of the Environment Canada Cross-Cutting Issues table and a member of the Advisory Council for Export Development Canada. He also serves on the Inquiry Team for Tomorrow's Global Company.

David has served as Senior Advisor to the President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Canada, and to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. He was Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Programme at the Institute for Research on Public Policy in Ottawa. He worked with Barbara Ward to found the International Institute for Environment and Development and directed both its London and Washington offices.

David was the Canadian Board member of IUCN-the World Conservation Union for six years and the Chair of the Committee for the World Conservation Congress in 1996. He served as a member of the Boards of the World Environment Center (New York), IIED (London) and Pollution Probe (Toronto).

An occasional writer and broadcaster, he has served as environment columnist for the CBC radio program, As it Happens and for CTV's Canada am. He was a member of the Discovery Channel's regular environment panel and political columnist for the Earth Times, the paper of record for the United Nations Earth Summit in 1992.

<http://www.iisd.org/about/staffbio.aspx?id=235>

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## Additional Information – Data Collection Instrument

### Asynchronous Online Dialogue Forum

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## Sustainable Development, Health and the Social Dimension



[Moderator Help](#)

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### 1. Exploring social sustainable development

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<a href="#">Whisper to Participant</a>	<a href="#">Moderator Messages</a>	<a href="#">Edit Participant List</a>	

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 **Welcome from the moderator!**  
**Robert:** Mar 23, 2007 7:17 AM

Welcome to our online dialogue on sustainable development, health and the social dimension. My name is Robert and I will be your moderator. I will participate in the dialogue by asking questions... and answering them if they are directed to me. My posts will have a slightly darker shade of blue. If you have questions on how to use the technical features of the dialogue tool I can be reached anytime by simply clicking on the button called "Moderator Help" located in the top right hand corner of each page.

Every day at 10:00am (EST), I will post a summary of the previous day's conversation. The summary will provide you with a convenient overview of what people have said and also include questions aimed at helping to move the conversation forward.

At the bottom of each page you will find resources to support the dialogue. You can access them at any time during the week. The specific dialogue objectives and the "ground rules for dialogue" are contained within the Moderator Guide. The Conversation Guide will be the centerpiece of this dialogue and provide you with important contextual information as well as the key questions we're aiming to address this week.

**\*\*Before we start the dialogue, we would ask that you take the time to review the Conversation Guide by clicking this link.\*\***

The guide will provide you with important information before you begin. Please remember that if you want to make sure you are up-to-date, click Refresh on your Internet browser so the latests posts will appear!

[Reply to this post](#) | [Make a New Post](#) | [Whisper](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

 **Opening Moderator Post**  
**Robert:** Mar 23, 2007 7:18 AM

The dialogue has been broken down into two main topic areas. This first part of the dialogue will focus on exploring sustainable development, particularly as it relates to the social dimension.

**Développement durable,  
la santé et la dimension sociale**



[Aide du modérateur](#)

>accueil >participer >votre table >exploration

Forum de dialogue

**1. Explorer le volet social du développement durable**

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 [Créer / éditer un sondage](#) | 
 En vue normale | 
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[Murmurer à un participant](#) | 
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 [Éditer la liste des participants](#)

aller au premier post ◀ 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 ▶ aller au plus récent

**Bienvenue du modérateur !** Ce post a été traduit

commentaire **Robert:** Mar 23, 2007 7:17 AM

Bienvenue à notre dialogue en ligne sur le développement durable, la santé et la dimension sociale. Mon nom est Robert et je serai votre modérateur. Je vais participer au dialogue en posant des questions...est en les répondant. Mes posts seront distingués par un teint de bleu foncé. Si vous avez des questions sur les aspects techniques du forum de dialogue, vous pouvez me contacter en cliquant sur le bouton 'Aide du modérateur' situé en haut et à droite de chaque page.

Chaque jour à 10:00am (HNE), je vais poster un sommaire de la conversation du jour précédent. Le sommaire vous donnera un survol de ce que les participants on discuté et inclura aussi des questions supplémentaires pour continuer le dialogue.

Au bas de chaque page, vous trouverez des ressources qui supporteront le dialogue. Vous pouvez les accéder tout au long de la semaine. Les objectifs du dialogue et les 'règles de base' du dialogue se trouvent dans le Guide du modérateur. Le guide de conversation servira comme l'outil clé pour ce dialogue car il contient de l'information qui vous donnera le context ainsi que des questions qui nous aimerons aborder cette semaine.

**\*\* Avant de commencer le dialogue, nous vous demandons de prendre quelques minutes afin de réviser le Guide de conversation en cliquant sur ce lien. Before \*\***

Ce guide vous fournira de l'information importante avant de commencer. Souvenez-vous que si vous voulez vous assurez que vous êtes à jour, cliquez sur le bouton 'Refresh' situé au haut de la page et les posts les plus récents seront affichés !

[Répondre à ce post](#) | 
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**Post initial du modérateur** Ce post a été traduit

question **Robert:** Mar 23, 2007 7:18 AM

Le dialogue est divisé en deux parties. La première partie mise sur l'exploration du développement durable, spécifiquement dans le contexte de la dimension sociale.

Nous aimerions commencer le dialogue en vous demandant de vous introduire et de répondre à la question suivante :

**"À quoi vous attendez-vous de Santé Canada en ce qui a trait au développement durable en général ?"**