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Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities

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ALBERTA COALITION FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES (ACHSC)  
**SUMMARY OF POPULATION HEALTH FUND PROJECT**

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### Introduction

The primary goal of ACHSC is to **increase community capacity** for development and implementation of a **comprehensive school health** process in Alberta school communities to enhance student's health and learning. We hope to do this by strengthening our network of partners and increasing awareness & knowledge about comprehensive school health in the province.

### Statement of need

Our stakeholders have expressed the urgent need for a **strong coordinating body** to build collaborating partnerships in order to address the many barriers to students' health and learning. Many small and larger scale initiatives are happening in the province but there is a lack of linkages and inadequate support for communities who wish to get started on new initiatives. Alberta lacks a strategic provincial plan to support CSH.

The barriers to healthy decision making and healthy behaviours must be reduced in order to prevent or slow the current rise of major health risks to students e.g., obesity, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, tobacco use and substance misuse. There is a great need for **resource sharing** and teachers request that more of these resources or linkages to other CSH projects are accessible online. There are inequities and gaps in CSH knowledge and research and the literature identifies the need for **understanding of best and promising practices**.

### Project Goal

To increase community capacity for larger scale development and implementation of a comprehensive school health approach in Alberta school communities in order to enhance students' healthy behaviours and learning potential.

## Project Objectives

1. Knowledge Sharing –  
To **increase awareness and knowledge** about comprehensive school health in Alberta amongst the 300 current members and up to 50 new members of ACHSC by March 2005.

Anticipated outcomes of our planned activities include:

- An experienced representative group of key stakeholders to help us achieve our program goals.
- A dedicated staff person to assist the Executive and effectively handle communications with stakeholders.
- A communications plan to guide project activities; this could also serve as a workplan for the Project Coordinator.
- A comprehensive list of local, regional, provincial and national initiatives, which will allow identification of missing pieces.
- An updated, more comprehensive web site
- An updated more comprehensive database and a membership process suitable to all members.
- A better informed public and stakeholder body; more advocates or champions for the comprehensive school health framework, more people who are aware of school community 'promising practices' at the school site level and of successful developments at schools, both regionally and provincially. This increased awareness and knowledge about comprehensive school health in Alberta may in turn increase the number of comprehensive school health activities occurring in the province.
- More educated stakeholders who see the coalition's role as the provincial resource for comprehensive school health information. Better, more effective networks and increased opportunities for mentorship between school practitioners and school councils.
- An educational newsletter distributed on a timely basis to all schools and others on database.
- A recognizable logo that reflects the missions and objectives of ACHSC.

2. Network Enhancement –  
To **expand ACHSC's partnerships** and collaborative community actions by March 2005.

Anticipated outcomes of our planned activities include:

- A strategic plan for our work.

- Healthy public policies as they relate to CSH at the intersectoral, regional, provincial and site based level.
- Geographical picture of school health initiatives, which can in turn mean strengthened partnerships with organizations and support projects that have a shared vision of healthy school communities. Identified and clearly recognizable partnerships that can contribute to the development of a provincial strategic plan