

ANNUAL REPORT

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STOP TB CANADA

# ANNUAL REPORT



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MARCH 2021

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In our first ever annual report, we are pleased to celebrate our impact and growth between March 2020 to March 2021. Highlights include:

- The relaunching of Stop TB Canada communications channels, all of which have seen steady growth and engagement.
- The creation of a diverse and highly engaged steering committee.
- The design and implementation of a number of highly successful webinars and events.
- The mobilization of a record number of advocacy actions in support of World TB Day in Canada.
- The cementing of the leadership and value add of the network, by organizing the collection of critical data to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the response to TB in Canada.

# ABOUT US

Stop TB Canada brings together individuals committed to ending tuberculosis (TB) at home and abroad, including TB researchers, TB advocates, TB practitioners, and TB survivors. This diversity in skill set provides the broad range of medical, social, and financial expertise needed to defeat TB. Stop TB Canada draws on the knowledge and experience of its own members to promote policy action, create public awareness, and mobilize communities affected by TB. This shared platform enables cooperation and coordination among its members and other organizations to increase community participation in the fight against TB.

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## MISSION

TO GENERATE THE  
POLITICAL WILL TO  
END TUBERCULOSIS  
EVERYWHERE

## VISION

A WORLD FREE FROM  
TUBERCULOSIS

MARCH 2021



THE  

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**END TB**

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STRATEGY



UN HLM on TB

# HOW WE WORK

- We connect, support, and provide a platform of engagement for Canadians committed to ending TB at home and abroad.
- We facilitate knowledge sharing between TB programs and activities across different sectors and stakeholders.
- We mobilize resources needed at the national and international level to end TB by developing strategic partnerships with communities, and public and private organizations.
- We work to increase public awareness of TB.
- We promote rights-based and person-centered approaches to support persons living with and affected by TB.
- We influence TB-related policies through strategic advocacy and by equipping and mobilizing advocates to take action.
- We hold Canada accountable to achieving the Global TB targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals, the End TB Strategy, and the political declaration of the UN high-level meeting on TB in Canada and abroad.

“  
**WE ARE A  
NETWORK OF  
CANADIANS  
COMMITTED TO  
ENDING TB AT HOME  
AND ABROAD**”



# RE-LAUNCHING THE NETWORK

This past year has been dedicated to “re-building” the Stop TB Canada network. Despite being established years ago, a national, intersectoral and coordinated effort to address TB in Canada was still missing. Therefore, last year, a group of motivated activists and researchers took it upon themselves to re-launch the network to give it a new sense of purpose and to reinvigorate engagement with relevant stakeholders.

In August 2020, a new [website](#) was created for the network where news, resources, and TB-related events are continuously being added. On this website, a directory of Canadian TB researchers, TB advocates, TB practitioners, and TB survivors has been created to encourage knowledge sharing and networking among individuals in different sectors. Directory pages are continuously growing, with 57 members now having profiles on the website.

The [@StopTBCanada](#) Twitter account was likewise brought back to life in March 2020 to build the network, increase brand awareness, and help promote and disseminate TB resources to a wider audience on social media. As an additional channel for engaging members, activating advocacy, and building brand credibility, the network published its first newsletter in [August 2020](#).

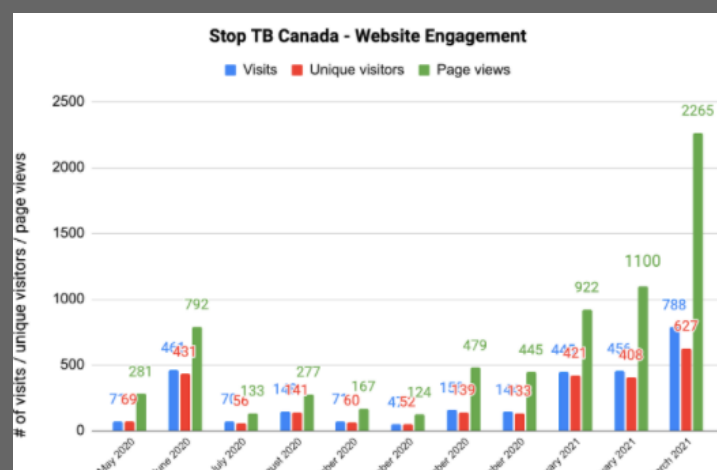
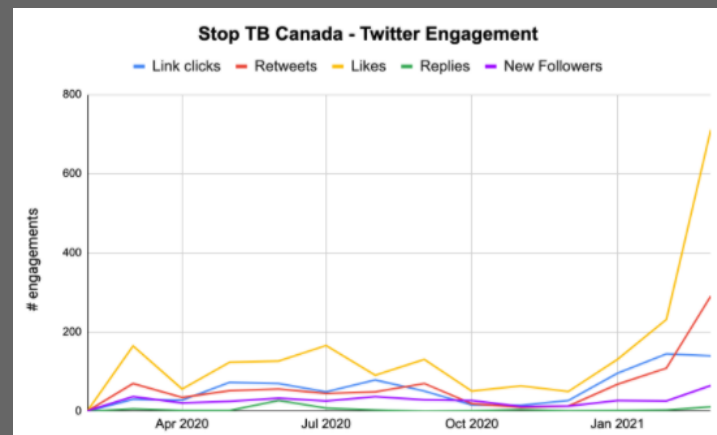
## INITIAL SUCCESSES

Our efforts were rewarded as we observed a steady increase in engagement with the Stop TB Canada website and Twitter account (see images to right).

Between March 2020 and March 2021, we gained over 370 new followers on Twitter and our website traffic surpassed 2,200 page views during the month of March 2021.

Our email list of network members signed up to receive monthly newsletters is likewise growing, with a total of 266 contacts currently reachable.

As we continue to add relevant content and expand our directory networks, we expect to see a continuation in increased engagement across our owned media platforms.



# MEET THE TEAM

## STOP TB CANADA STEERING COMMITTEE



The network's organizational structure is intended to balance the requirements of achieving wide representation in decision making, broadening the participation of individuals and organizations in Stop TB Canada activities, and providing effective leadership and coordination. To guide the strategic development and implementation of the Stop TB Canada network, a call for expressions of interest to join a steering committee was launched in August 2020. We were delighted to have received such high levels of interest in supporting the building of a community committed to ending TB at home and abroad. [Our steering committee](#) is made up of 16 members, including 5 researchers, 4 practitioners, 6 advocates, and 1 TB survivor. It is under the guidance and through the support of this steering committee that Stop TB Canada is reinvigorating the network and building out governance and finance strategies to sustain Stop TB Canada's activities well into the future. The steering committee met for their first formal quarterly meeting in December 2020.

# ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## STOP TB CANADA PARTICIPATED IN AND HOSTED SEVERAL WEBINARS AND EVENTS

### WEBINARS

As part of our “re-building” phase, we have participated in and hosted several online webinars and events. In August 2020, we hosted our first [Stop TB Canada webinar](#) since reinvigorating the network, where we heard first hand from healthcare workers and program implementers working in Canada and abroad to end TB during the pandemic. Over 180 people registered for the event, maxing out our zoom account capacity of 100 people! The network now hosts quarterly webinars on topics of interest to members, as well as bi-monthly national calls that are meant to facilitate information sharing, coordination, and collaboration amongst participants.

Webinars and national calls delivered by Stop TB Canada between March 2020 - March 2021:

- [A Stop TB Canada webinar - exploring the impacts of COVID-19 on TB](#)
- [A Stop TB Canada webinar - our progress and vision for impact](#)
- [World TB Day national call](#)

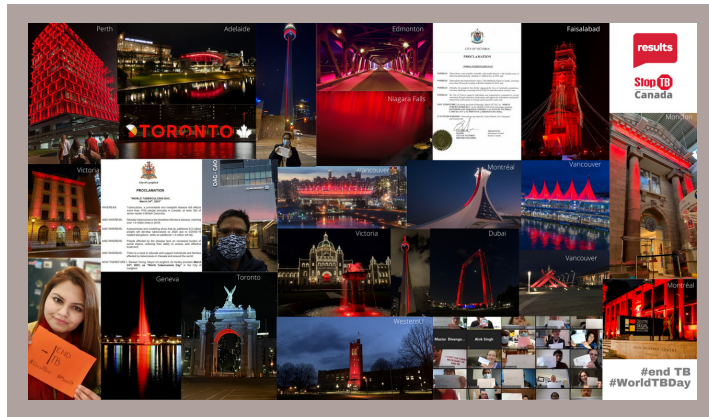
External sector events Stop TB Canada has participated in between March 2020 - March 2021:

- [Global Health conference session](#)
- World TB Day collaborative events
  - [Together against TB: a World TB Day Discussion on Taking Action to #EndTB](#)
  - [York University Webinar: Ensuring continued TB services during COVID-19](#)

# WORLD TB DAY SUCCESSES

THE STOP TB CANADA NETWORK WORKED TO ENSURE THE GREATEST IMPACT WAS MADE THIS WTBD

Leading up to World TB Day (March 24th), Stop TB Canada led and coordinated a variety of activities. We launched our World TB Day planning by hosting a network-wide [national call](#) to hear about and support the events and activities being hosted by members of the TB community in Canada.



Through our networks, we managed to get 38 monuments and buildings across Canada to [light up in red](#), as well as 5 mayoral proclamations in honour of World TB Day. These efforts were amplified on social media in order to increase awareness of TB and to stand in solidarity with all those affected by this disease.

The collective voice and power of our increasingly active network, including passionate Canadians from across the country, was made clear by the record number of actions taken to commemorate World TB Day 2021. Members of our steering committee used this opportunity to showcase the critical need for further action in the fight to end TB, through several op-ed publications:

- [What Canada needs to do to end TB](#) by Alexandra Zimmer and Lena Faust
- [TB in Canada: Who counts?](#) by Dr. Courtney Heffernan
- [What Canada has failed to learn from the persistence of tuberculosis](#) by Dr. Courtney Heffernan and Dr. Leyla Asadi
- [Ottawa must continue to step up in fight against TB](#) by Dr. Robyn Waite
- [To recover from COVID-19, donor support for tuberculosis must increase](#) by Dr. Robyn Waite and Dr. Madhukar Pai
- [Tuberculosis stigma shouldn't be forgotten](#) by Amal Abdulrahman



# WORLD TB DAY SUCCESSES

## POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

### ENGAGEMENT WITH MINISTERS

On the political side, we seized the opportunity of World TB Day to introduce our network to Canadian decision makers and parliamentarians. Three letters were sent on behalf of the steering committee to the Minister of Health, the Minister of International Development, and the Minister of Indigenous Services.

In our [letter to the Minister of Health](#), we addressed the fact that the last Tuberculosis in Canada report was published in 2019, and reported data from 2017, which is insufficient for addressing the contemporary TB situation in Canada, especially in light of the impact of COVID-19-related disruptions on TB services. We called upon the Minister of Health to update the epidemiological profile of TB in Canada and assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on TB services.

In our [letter to the Minister of International Development](#), we stressed the urgent need for Canada to maintain historical levels of investment in TB REACH. We also implored Canada to fund the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism and its missing USD \$6 million for TB research and development (R&D) in order to meet Canada's fair share target.

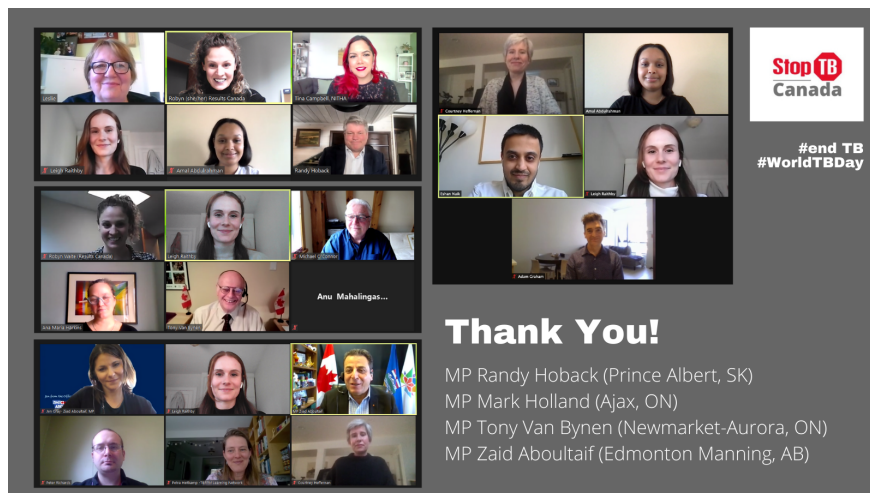
Our [letter to the Minister of Indigenous Services](#) highlighted the disproportionate burden of TB that is faced amongst Indigenous communities and calls on the Minister to strengthen the domestic response to TB.



## ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

In addition to our letters to Ministers, the network reached out to 21 Members of Parliament (MPs) and secured 6 MP meetings to discuss the current TB crisis in Canada and abroad.

We also hosted and were involved in a number of World TB Day events (see webinars and events on pg. 6) The collective work of the network in support of World TB Day will not only yield advocacy success as we continue to engage decision makers and parliamentarians, but will also serve as a springboard to reintroduce Stop TB Canada as a strong and coordinated force in the fight to end TB at home and abroad.



# SURVEY: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CANADIAN TB PROGRAMS

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant disruptions to TB services globally and threatens to jeopardize progress towards TB elimination. Unfortunately, there is a lack of data on how COVID-19-related disruptions have affected TB programs and services in Canada specifically. Stop TB Canada therefore launched 3 surveys to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian TB programs: one for TB program leads, one for TB program staff, and one for people living with TB, to better understand the experiences of these three groups with respect to disruptions in TB services during the pandemic. The program lead survey also collected aggregate quantitative data on TB cases and latent TB infection management prior to and during the pandemic. Once survey responses are available, we will put together a report of the findings, to be shared with relevant stakeholders and policymakers, including the Ministers of Health and Indigenous Services, so that informed action can be taken towards ending TB in Canada.

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# THE ROAD AHEAD

In just one year, Stop TB Canada has come a long way. We've managed to grow our network exponentially and engage in meaningful advocacy in the fight against TB, both within Canada and abroad.

For the rest of 2021, our focus will continue to be on re-building the network by developing strategic partnerships with communities, and public and private organizations. Beyond 2021, we hope to see Stop TB Canada gain momentum as a stand-alone, grassroots organization that can support the fight against TB and hold Canada accountable to achieving the global TB targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals, the End TB Strategy, and the political declaration of the UN high-level meeting on TB. We welcome your support and engagement in our efforts. If you are interested in joining or funding the network please reach out to us at [hello@stoptbcanada.ca](mailto:hello@stoptbcanada.ca)

## JOIN US IN THE FIGHT TO END TB



JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST



JOIN OUR DIRECTORY



SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER