

STOP TB CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



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Stop TB Canada's third annual report celebrates our impact and growth between April 2022 and March 2023. This report illustrates how Stop TB Canada has delivered on its objectives this year through raising awareness, promoting policy action, and mobilizing communities affected by tuberculosis (TB). Each activity that the network engaged in this year helped move the needle towards realizing our vision of a world without TB. Stop TB Canada is a network that welcomes anyone who shares our passion and commitment to this vision of TB elimination. If you would like to get involved with Stop TB Canada, please refer to the last page of this report for all of the ways that you can connect with us. Together, we can end TB.

ABOUT US

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



VISION

A WORLD FREE FROM TUBERCULOSIS

MISSION

TO RAISE AWARENESS, MOBILIZE
COMMUNITIES, AND GENERATE THE
POLITICAL WILL TO END TUBERCULOSIS
IN CANADA AND ABROAD

We are a network connecting people, organizations and communities committed to ending TB at home and abroad.

APRIL 2023



HOW WE WORK

To drive forward the work of the network in achieving our mission, Stop TB Canada conducts our work based on a specific Statement of Work. This Statement of Work (listed below) was developed through the thoughtful collaboration of our steering committee and is continually referred to as we progress through our work plan. The Statement of Work is updated on an annual basis to ensure that the guiding objectives listed within remain relevant to the network and remain priorities around which to centre our work around.



STATEMENT OF WORK

- We connect, support, and provide a platform of engagement for people, organizations, and communities committed to ending TB in Canada 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 acting on the calls to action put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- 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.



MEET THE STEERING COMMITTEE

After the successful introduction of the Stop TB Canada steering committee in January 2021, we were pleased to see the continued engagement and increased involvement of this group over the next two years. The Stop TB Canada steering committee was formed to guide the strategic development and implementation of the network by providing perspective, guidance, and expert advice on our operations. The committee is composed of a wide array of TB experts based in Canada, with a diversity of expertise and lived experiences. To learn more about the steering committee and its members, please refer to our website.



CO-CHAIRS

The work of the Stop TB Canada network is made possible by the effective leadership of our two co-chairs: Dr. Elizabeth Rea, Associate Medical Officer (TB Program) at Toronto Public Health, and Tina Campbell, TB Advisor for Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority.

CORE WORKING GROUP

Stop TB Canada's day-to-day operations are driven by a small core working group, made up of policy experts, research students, and advocates. We would like to acknowledge the relentless work of Leigh Raithby, Ekatha Ann John, Lena Faust, Courtney Heffernan, Robin Love, and Elizabeth Mebrahtu.



OUR REACH

Over the past three years, Stop TB Canada has focused on building its communications channels in an effort to increase our impact and reach. Through consistent communication via social media, a regularly updated website, and timely newsletters (see "Raise Awareness" section), Stop TB Canada has become a reputable source for TB information. The engagement of both our <u>Twitter</u> account and our <u>website</u> have steadily increased since they were launched in 2020. Please refer to the graphs below for a detailed breakdown of the progression of engagement for both the Twitter account and the website.

TWITTER ENGAGEMENT

Stop TB Canada - Twitter Engagement - Link clicks - Retweets - Likes - Replies - New Followers 600 400 Jul 2020 Jan 2021 Jul 2021 Jan 2022 Jul 2022 Jan 2023

WEBSITE ENGAGEMENT



A unique feature of the Stop TB Canada website that serves our objective of connecting Canadians committed to ending TB is our <u>directory</u>. The directory is a platform to connect those working towards this mission with other like-minded individuals and organizations. It features advocates, researchers, practitioners, and survivors based in Canada in an effort to bring those working to end TB together, providing the opportunity for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective impact. Want to join our directory? Please refer to the last page of this report to learn more about how you can get connected.



OUR IMPACT

Realizing Stop TB Canada's vision of a world without TB is dependent on specific and strategic objectives to guide the work of the network. Stop TB Canada's operations are guided by the following overarching objectives:

1. RAISE AWARENESS

TB is an often neglected, forgotten, and misunderstood disease. Yet, it continues to inflict serious harm on millions of people around the world every year. In fact, it was the deadliest infectious disease prior to COVID-19 and will likely regain that title. Stop TB Canada is committed to raising awareness for TB. The network engages in a variety of public awareness campaigns, communications, and strategic partnerships to increase the public's knowledge of TB, so that the epidemic can be better understood and therefore better addressed. Learn more on page 6.

2. PROMOTE POLICY ACTION

Many of the factors that enable TB to thrive in Canada and around the world are rooted in policy. Whether it be access to health care, the timely delivery of epidemiological data, addressing the social determinants of health, providing health education to key populations, or lack of funding - many of the systemic factors that contribute to the emergence of preventable diseases like TB are within the government's mandate to address. Because of this, Stop TB Canada is committed to educating parliamentarians about the issues and solutions that exist, and holding them accountable to the commitments Canada has made to TB elimination. Learn more on page 9.

3. MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY TB

"Nothing about us without us" is a phrase we often hear in global health and social justice advocacy, and speaks to Stop TB Canada's belief that all of our actions should be based on the needs directly expressed by those affected by TB. The network makes an effort to engage members of the affected community to ensure that our actions will yield the greater impact for those in the greatest need. Stop TB Canada recently established a peer-support network for people affected by TB in Canada, to ensure that these individuals, their friends, and families, have the support they need throughout their experience with TB. Learn more on page 13.



1. RAISE AWARENESS

Stop TB Canada prioritizes knowledge sharing and awareness building, as this is critical to moving the needle forward in the quest to end TB. The network utilizes several different strategies to share information and educate the public about TB. Some of the activities that Stop TB Canada engaged in this year are listed below:

NATIONAL MEMBERS CALLS

Stop TB Canada hosts regular virtual calls to share information and connect with others who are dedicated to the fight against TB. The network holds National Members Calls, where we bring together TB advocates and researchers and other individuals based in Canada who are working to end TB for an informal meeting. These bi-monthly calls are an opportunity to connect with others who are committed to our mission, to connect, collaborate, and share information. Over the last year, our National Calls have focused on a variety of topics, including:

- <u>Developing a coalition of advocates in support of the Global Fund's</u>
 Replenishment
- <u>Canada's progress towards TB commitments and informing Stop TB Partnership's</u>
 <u>Deadly Divide report</u>
- Plans for collective action on World TB Day

WFBINARS

The network also hosts quarterly webinars, which are intended for a wider audience, and aim to educate the general public about certain topics related to TB. These webinars are also great opportunities to work with our partner organizations who can contribute specific knowledge that would benefit the network. Some of our webinars from the past year include:

- Words Matter: Language and TB
- The Canadian TB Standards: Knowledge to Action through Advocacy
- <u>Together let's end TB: a World TB Day</u> webinar





1. RAISE AWARENESS

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to speaking on various platforms about TB, our network's members have published articles, op-eds, and commentaries on our recent work. See below for a list of some of the pieces published by the network this year.

- <u>Canada needs to implement pandemic</u>
 <u>preparedness in dealing with TB</u> Elizabeth Rea, Tina Campbell & Petra
 Heitkamp
- Why Canada needs to step up Global Fund support this year - Leigh Raithby
- Reconciling our history for the health of our future - Tina Campbell
- Reflecting on the relationship between residential schools and TB in Canada -Courtney Heffernan, Giovanni Ferrara & Richard Long
- Improving post-tuberculosis care in Canada - Kamila Romanowski, Priya Amin & James C. Johnston
- Engaging the private sector is vital to ending TB - Petra Heitkamp & Dr. Mohammed Yassin
- The state of tuberculosis surveillance in Canada - Jonathon R. Campbell, Lena Faust, Catherine Paulsen & Courtney Heffernan

NFWSI FTTFR

The monthly Stop TB Canada newsletter serves as a way to engage and strengthen ties among the Canadian TB community and as a platform for knowledge-sharing. The newsletter aim to inform the network about latest developments related to TB, mobilize our membership to take advocacy action in support of our campaigns, and amplify the work of our partners.







1. RAISE AWARENESS

CONFERENCES

Stop TB Canada has also engaged with sector allies and partner organizations to share our messages within academic and clinical circles. In addition to sharing information about the network and our impact in these settings, Stop TB Canada uses these forums to speak to the value of advocacy and encourage others working in global health to engage with decision makers, the public, and the press to ensure that their knowledge turns into action. This year, Stop TB Canada participated at the:

International AIDS Conference:

Stop TB Canada members joined our global and Canadian partners in Montreal to highlight the intersections between TB and HIV and connect in-person to engage in advocacy, including in support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and for Canada to implement a National TB Elimination Strategy.



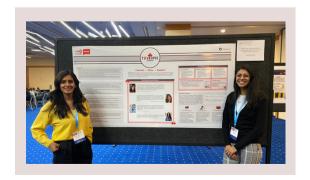


Canadian Conference on Global Health:

Stop TB Canada members connected with colleagues at Stop TB Partnership and Stop TB Kenya for a discussion on the power of partnerships in global health.

NAR Union End TB Conference:

Stop TB Canada members connected with colleagues, clinicians and practitioners, researchers, advocates, and TB survivors at the Union North America Region End TB Conference in Vancouver in February 2023. During the conference, many of our members were speakers in a variety of sessions, we held our annual members meeting, and had a poster presentation to highlight our TBpeople Canada project.





Advocacy is key to Stop TB Canada's strategy to realizing a world without TB. In addition to increasing the general awareness of TB, it is essential that our messages reach the right audiences - those who have the power to enact change. That's why Stop TB Canada engages directly with parliamentarians and government officials. Over the past three years, throughout several campaigns, Stop TB Canada has been building political champions, including Members of Parliament and Ministers, who support our mission and add weight to our campaigns. Stop TB Canada also engages in political processes that are open to civil society and the public to ensure that the voices of the TB community are heard by decision makers.

SPOTLIGHT: GLOBAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Twenty years ago, AIDS, TB, and malaria seemed unbeatable. In 2002, in an act of extraordinary global solidarity and leadership, the world came together to create the Global Fund to fight what were then the deadliest diseases confronting humanity. Over the 20 years that followed, the Global Fund partnership has saved 50 million lives and reduced the combined death rate from the three diseases by more than half in the countries where it invests.

In 2022, Stop TB Canada and civil society organizations, both in Canada and globally, called for world leaders to #FightForWhatCounts at a time when global solidarity is needed more than ever. Together with our partners, we led several initiatives such as holding meetings with MP's and decision makers across the country, conducting National Calls to mobilize advocates, leveraged social and traditional media to increase public awareness through several virtual campaigns, and participated in inperson events such as the Toronto Pride Parade and the International AIDS Conference.

Our efforts did not go unnoticed. At the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's Replenishment Conference September 2022, Canada demonstrated outstanding leadership and its unwavering commitment to the fight against AIDS. tuberculosis (TB), and malaria with a CAD\$1.2 billion pledge to the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment. This investment will enable Global Fund programming to get the world back on track to eliminating epidemics and will save millions of lives.





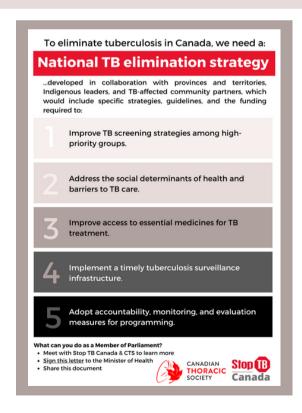
SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL TB ELIMINATION STRATEGY

While the overall incidence of TB in Canada today is low, it is disproportionately higher in newcomer, First Nations, and Inuit communities. Alarmingly, the prevalence of TB is more than 300 times higher in Inuit communities than among the non-Indigenous Canadian-born population. This exemplifies deep inequities in social determinants of health, particularly in relation to housing, access to care, and the prevalence of comorbidities that increase the risk of TB. Even though there is little transmission of TB in Canada from Newcomer Canadians, this population makes up the majority of Canadians falling ill with TB, highlighting the barriers marginalized communities face in Canada's health and social systems.

Efforts to address TB in Inuit communities are ongoing. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) has developed an <u>Inuit-specific TB Strategy</u> emphasizing community education, addressing the social determinants of health, and the use of Inuit-centered approaches to TB prevention, care, surveillance, and research. Furthermore, the Canadian government has committed to eliminating TB across Inuit Nunangat by 2030. It is critical that these commitments are supported by action, starting with the implementation of a National Tuberculosis Elimination Strategy.

Following the publication of the <u>Canadian</u> <u>TB Standards 8th edition</u> earlier this year, the Stop TB Canada network identified five key recommendations to help inform the Government in developing a National TB Elimination Strategy.

Over the course of January through March 2023, the network engaged with parliamentarians to gain their support for a National TB Elimination Strategy, and collected signatures for this letter, which was sent to the Minister of Health in April 2023. Stop TB Canada looks forward to working with the government and all stakeholders to move this initiative forward.





FEDERAL BUDGET CONSULATION

In addition to direct engagement with parliamentarians, Stop TB Canada submitted to the Federal Budget consultation, outlining what is urgently needed from Canada to address the TB crisis. To learn more about our pre-budget submission, please visit our blog post.

In March 2023, the Federal Budget was published, only mentioning TB in an allocation of \$16.2M to go towards TB elimination in Inuit Nunangat by 2030 (far short of the requested \$131.5M by ITK). Furthermore, Canada's International Assistance Envelope decreased by 15 percent, shrinking the bucket of funding that Canada can allocate towards global TB elimination mechanisms. We hoped that more of our pre-budget submission recommendations would have been realized in the budget and will continue to advocate for greater investments in TB efforts.

PHARMACEUTICAL ADVOCACY

As part of Stop TB Canada's domestic advocacy to improve TB outcomes in Canada, we are calling on greater access to essential TB medicines, like Rifapentine. rifapentine can play in TB prevention and, increasingly, care around the world. Rifapentine plays an important role in TB prevention and care around the world. At this time; however, Canadians are denied full use of this valuable tool, as Rifapentine is not approved for use in Canada, apart from through Health Canada's Urgent Public Health Need program.

Sanofi, the manufacturer of Rifapentine, has the opportunity to make this tool available but has made the business decision to deny access to this essential medicine to Canadians. Stop TB Canada wrote to Sanofi in September 2022, calling on the company to reconsider this decision and register rifapentine for use in Canada.

SUBMISSION TO THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR.

The Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples sought out information in preparation of his visit to Canada in March 2023. Stop TB Canada submitted to this consultation to ensure that TB was on the agenda for this visit. As a result, TB is mentioned in the <u>Special Rapporteur's End of Mission statement</u>, stating that "Indigenous Peoples experience the highest rates of tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, chronic health conditions and mental health issues".

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HOLDING THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

Canada has committed to various domestic and global TB elimination goals, such as the goal to invest its fair share in TB research, to which countries agreed at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, as well as the domestic goal to eliminate TB across Inuit Nunangat by 2030. However, with Canada's national TB data being outdated (with the latest summary report covering data up to 2020, but the latest full report presenting data only up to 2018), it is difficult to track our current progress towards these goals. For this reason, Stop TB Canada launched a TB Tracker on World TB Day last year, to provide transparent tracking of progress towards the domestic and global TB elimination targets to which Canada has committed, and hold policy-makers accountable for progress towards these goals. The tracker was updated this year ahead of World TB Day and is now in its second iteration.

Unfortunately, this year's tracker shows we are still falling short of stated TB elimination goals. Of particular concern is the fact that the observed drop in TB case notifications is likely to be due to missed diagnoses during COVID-19, rather than actual reductions in incidence.

As this year's World TB Day theme was "Yes we can end TB", we hope that the tracker serves as a valuable advocacy tool for calling on our government to commit the resources required to make real progress on ending TB, at home and abroad.

THIS YEAR'S TB IN CANADA SCORE CARD:

	TB in Canada: 2023 Scorecard	Change from 2022 Scorecard
Ø	National TB surveillance	=
Ø	Investment in TB research	=
Ø	Addressing the needs of key populations (newcomers, Indigenous communities)	=
Ø	Political commitment to ending TB at home and abroad	=
Ø	Progress towards eliminating TB across Inuit Nunangat by 2030	=
Ø	Progress towards the End TB Targets	=
Ø	Progress towards the UNHLM TB diagnosis and treatment targets	\
Ø	Progress towards the UNHLM DR-TB diagnosis and treatment targets	\
Ø	Progress towards the UNHLM childhood TB diagnosis and treatment targets	=
Ø	Access to TB drugs (child-friendly formulations, newer regimens)	=
8	Meeting WHO-recommended TB treatment success rate	=



3. MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY TUBERCULOSIS

TBPEOPLE CANADA

As Stop TB Canada began engaging with the TB affected community, it became evident that Canada was lacking a peer support network for people affected by TB. In response to this need, and based on the success of similar initiatives in other countries, Stop TB Canada embarked on the development of a support group for people affected by TB in Canada.

TB Conquerors was launched in December 2021 with seed funding from Results Canada. In alignment with Stop TB Partnership's Words Matter Language Guide, and the critical need to promote appropriate language and empower people affected by TB, the community was rebranded to TBPeople Canada in July 2022. TBPeople Canada is a community for people living with TB, TB survivors, family members, and friends. The peer support group aims to provide a safe space for members to come together and share stories, experiences, and resources to foster feelings of togetherness and solidarity. The group will highlight the personal stories of its members to raise TB awareness and work to end the stigma that persists.

The TBPeople Canada network has continued to grow this year. Communications channels such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts been growing in followers engagements, as well as the website where information about this network is shared. Furthermore, we have gained several new members who have leveraged their experiences to advocate for action to end TB, both domestic and abroad. One notable event being the Union NAR End TB Conference in Vancouver earlier this year. Looking ahead, our immediate objective for the community is to reach those who need this support group by building this community, and to mobilize and provide individuals opportunities for within community to continue to advocate for a TB-free world.





WORLD TB DAY

On March 24, 2023, Stop TB Canada joined our domestic and global partners in recognizing World Tuberculosis Day - a day to honour the millions of people affected by TB and to raise public and parliamentary awareness about this devastating disease. See below for a snapshot of our success this World TB Day, including building awareness, gaining political champions, and securing resources from Canada to #EndTB.

RAISING AWARENESS FOR TR

Stop TB Canada joined our partners, including Results Canada and their committed volunteers, to successfully illuminate 45 prominent Canadian landmarks red on World TB Day. This movement is a public demonstration and symbol of nationwide concern and dedication to eliminating TB at home and abroad. TB advocates secured three mayoral proclamations, wrote letters to the editor, engaged with news media, and urged Canada to invest in TB elimination efforts on social media.

In the lead-up to World TB Day, Stop TB Canada hosted an <u>#EndTB webinar</u> featuring several distinguished speakers to discuss the actions TB advocates can take to have a significant impact on TB elimination in Canada and abroad.





WORLD TB DAY

BUILDING PARI IAMENTARY CHAMPIONS

Ahead of World TB Day, Stop TB Canada met with Canadian parliamentarians to educate political officials about TB as a domestic and global health issue, build political TB champions, and foster the political will to end TB everywhere.

Stop TB Canada met with parliamentarians across party lines, including MPs Kelly Block, Francesco Sorbara, Arif Virani, Ziad Aboultaif, Gary Vidal, Robert Kitchen, and Michael McLeod, whom we'd like to thank for their support and engagement with our mission.

Special thanks to MP Pam Damoff, who raised awareness about TB on March 22, by making a <u>statement in the House of Commons</u> to publicly recognize World TB Day and acknowledge the hard work of TB advocates.

Ending TB is possible but we must continue the fight against this debilitating disease.

- MP Pam Damoff

Another special thanks to the Honourable Minister of International Development, Harjit Sajjan, who acknowledged World TB Day and the Canadian government's commitment to TB elimination by 2030 on Twitter.





Thank you @PamDamoff for raising awareness about #TB & highlighting #Canada4Results volunteers who took action to light up over 45 monuments across Canada to stand in solidarity with those affected in 14 around the 3 #YesWeCanEndTB - show your support this Friday on #WorldTBDay!



7:46 PM · Mar 22, 2023 · 2,458 Views



APRIL 2023

WORLD TB DAY

#ITSTIMETOENDTB PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION

On March 23, many of our partners connected with parliamentarians across party lines to celebrate Canada's efforts towards TB elimination and discuss what further action is needed to achieve this goal. We would like to thank MPs Pam Damoff, Gary Vidal, and Lori Idlout for sponsoring the event and speaking to the urgent need for Canada to address the TB crisis, at home and abroad.

We would also like to thank Minister of International Development, Harjit Sajjan, Minister of **Prairies** Economic Canadian Development and Northern Development Economic Dan Agency, Vandal. for joining the event and demonstrating TB their support elimination efforts. The event highlighted how ending TB is a non-partisan issue something that everyone should support.

Special thank you to our keynote speaker, Stop TB Canada's co-chair, Tina Campbell. Tina provided a captivating yet heartbreaking personal account of Canada's history of tuberculosis, inspiring all of us to remain committed to the guest to end TB.

TB isn't an issue of this country's past - it is an issue of the present.
- Tina Campbell









LOOKING AHEAD

Reflecting on the past three years since a small group of motivated individuals took on the reinvigoration of the Stop TB Canada network, we are proud of the impact that the network has had in raising awareness, promoting policy action, and mobilizing communities affected by TB. This report demonstrates the value of such a network in realizing our vision of a world without TB. We've managed to grow our network and engage in meaningful advocacy in the fight against TB, both within Canada and abroad.

We are keen to increase our impact as Stop TB Canada continues to gain momentum in 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. Please refer to our contact information below. Together we can and must end TB.

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT TO END TB







