



Pacific North West Border Health Alliance

Forging Ahead

2009 Great Lakes Border Health Initiative
Northern Border Strategic Planning Meeting
Madison, WI

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Chronology

Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) - 1991

Western Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee - 1996

Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) – 1996

Ad Hoc Cross Border Public Health Preparedness Working Group - 2002

British Columbia-Alberta MOU- 2004

British Columbia-Washington MOU - 2006

PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007

Pacific North West Border Health Alliance (PNWBHA) - 2008



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PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007



PNWER

Objective:

To increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region; coordinate provincial and state policies throughout the region; to identify and promote "models of success;" and to serve as a conduit to exchange information



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PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007



PNEMA

Objective:

Establish regionally-based emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures that will benefit all jurisdictions within the Pacific Northwest, and best serve their respective national interests in cooperative and coordinated emergency preparedness



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Ad Hoc Cross Border Working Group

Objective:

Establish an inter-jurisdiction collaborative approach to mitigate and respond to the public health impact of both routine disease outbreaks and catastrophic health emergencies across the Canada-United States border.



Accomplishments

- **Cross Border Workshops for Public Health Leaders**
- **24/7 Emergency Contact List**
- **Electronic connectivity**
 - BCCDC added to CDC Epi-X electronic alerting system
 - Adjacent states and provinces added to Washington State SECURES electronic alert network
- **Cross Border Epidemiology Exercises**
- **2010 Olympic and Paralympic Preparedness Planning**
 - Regional surveillance plans
- **Cross Border EMS Movement Plan**



Recognized need to:

- **Institutionalize** ad hoc working group to ensure sustainability
- **Maximize** capacity to address extraordinary demands impacting the public health and health care delivery systems
- **Reinforce** existing informal communication/ collaboration between cross-border public health partners
- **Implement** WHO International Health Regulation



Today

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***Pacific North West Border Health Alliance
(PNWBHA) - 2008***



PNWBHA:

Objectives:

To prevent and/or mitigate communicable disease outbreaks through integrated surveillance and early notification;

To respond to surge capacity demands on health systems and health resources efficiently and in a cost effective manner when public health emergencies arise; and

To assess current and explore future areas of operational responsibility that could result in efficiencies when providing health services.



Opportunities

Build on established practice

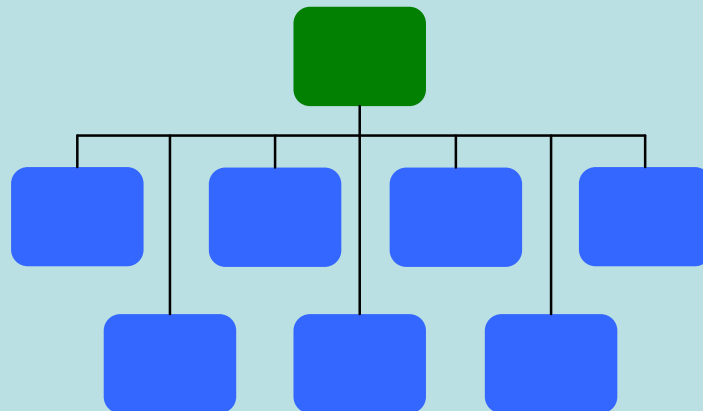
Seamless transition - routine to emergency operations

Enhanced interoperability through regular use

Platform for collaborative work on chronic disease and healthy public policies



Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)





JCC Membership

Core

- Co-Chair (Canadian and United States representatives)
- Signatory Representatives (9)
- Working Group Leads (8)

Liaison

- Representative from the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Representative from United States Public Health Service



Goals

- Identify opportunities to improve collaborative early warning infectious disease surveillance and information sharing between the participating jurisdictions, including the type of information to be shared.
- Develop plans to address surge capacity demands on health systems and resources when public health emergencies arise, including a 24/7 response protocol.
- Assess current and explore future areas of collaboration that could result in efficiencies in the provision of health services
- Conduct an annual Cross Border Public Health Preparedness Workshop.



Vision

A seamless cross-border, cross jurisdictional public health infectious disease surveillance and emergency response network along the entire Canada-United States border

A governance structure too provide leadership in the integration of public health preparedness and response initiatives along the Canada – U.S. border through collaborative early warning infectious disease surveillance and mutual assistance arrangements



Tomorrow

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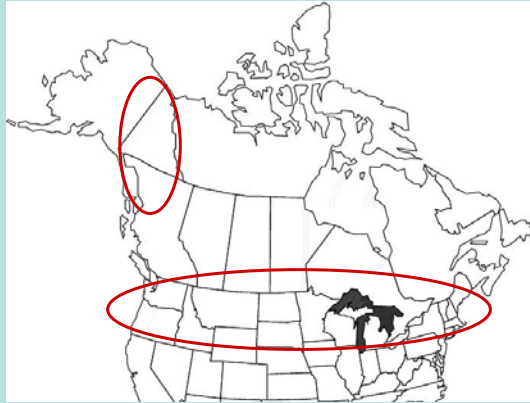
PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007

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Northern Border Health Authority



Northern Border Health Authority



Pacific North West Border Health Alliance Sixth Annual Cross Border Workshop Public Health Resilience: A Collaborative Challenge



**Sheraton Wall Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia
May 26-28, 2009**

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/topics/crossborder2009/>



Questions

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