

Towards a Cavity-Free Future for Infants and Children in Canada

Given recent developments in oral health care policy and practice in Canada and internationally, what else is needed in terms of investments or other conditions to maximize caries prevention and care amongst infants and children?



THE CHALLENGE

Untreated tooth decay afflicts up to 90% of children in some Canadian communities



THE OPPORTUNITY

This is a 'moment in time' to maximize caries prevention and care for children in Canada



THE AMBITION FOR 2030

Enhanced prevention, wider access, improved outcomes and sustainable funding



THE FIRST STEPS:

ACTIONS TO CREATE MOMENTUM TOWARDS THE 2030 AMBITION



STRATEGIC ENABLERS

- Sustainably fund caries prevention and care
- Make the most of data



UPSTREAM PREVENTION

- Focus policy on the wider determinants of health and especially sugar consumption
- Promote locally appropriate water fluoride strategies



ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

- Shift perceptions and practice in the dentistry profession from treatment to prevention
- Expand and integrate the oral health workforce



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- Co-design culturally and community appropriate services with patients and communities
- Develop practical tools or apps to empower parents and families in prevention

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Working together with the full range of stakeholders will be critical to the next steps in this journey towards a Cavity-Free Future for infants and children in Canada. Stakeholders include:

Government and health systems

Oral health care professionals

Other providers of services to infants and children

Patients, families and carers, local community bodies

Payers and insurers

Professional bodies, guidance and education providers

Dental and oral health industries

Engaging and acting across four complementary themes is essential. The themes identified are:

- Strategic enablers
- Upstream prevention
- Oral health workforce
- Community empowerment

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