

# Primary Health Care Models Across Canada: how services are connected across sectors

**\$ 800M**  
in PHC renewal

Since the early 2000s, federal and provincial governments have invested in Primary Health Care (PHC) renewal in order to make PHC more available, comprehensive and coordinated. Comprehensiveness and coordination between health and social services is especially important for patients with complex needs.

**Objective:** This study aimed to investigate the policies and programs designed to integrate primary care, social and health services in Canada.

This study explored primary healthcare in 2017-2018 across Canadian provinces to determine:

1. what PHC renewal delivery models were established, and which provincial strategies were implemented
2. how well PHC delivery models promote connection of PHC to social and other health services.

## PHC Renewal Delivery Models

### Health Care Providers

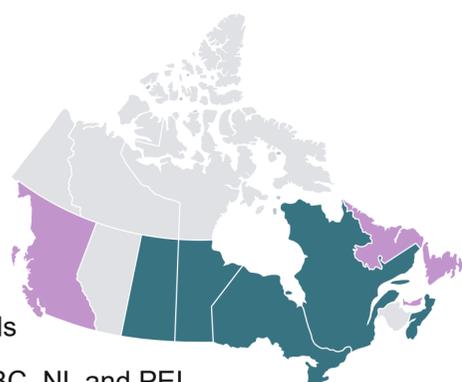


**Present** in AB and ON: delivery models include a broad set of disciplines such as pharmacists, social workers, psychologists and nutritionists or dieticians.

**In progress** in QC and NS: the disciplinary mix of health care providers is slowly moving beyond physicians and nurses.

### Enhanced Family Practice

- Most common delivery model in Canada
- Expanded scope of care:
  - grouping physicians
  - adding new health professionals
- Most Enhanced Family Practice models include integration across PHC sectors
  - typically focused on to integration with hospitals

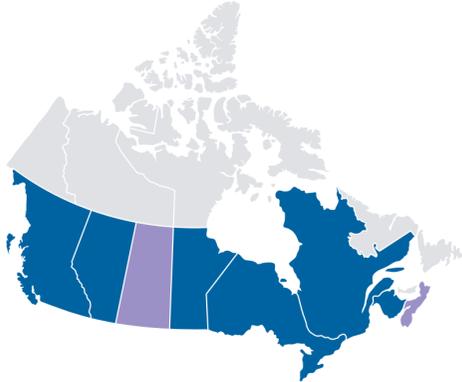


**Present** in SK, MB, ON, QC and NS

**Piloted** in BC, NL and PEI

### Community Health Centre

- Most comprehensive PHC delivery Model
- Broad range of intramural health services:
  - interprofessional teams
  - may include community engagement and development activities
- Only model where social services and public health approaches are core elements
  - Available to a small percentage of Canadians



**Well-established** in QC, ON, NB, MB, AB and BC  
**Increasing** in SK and NS

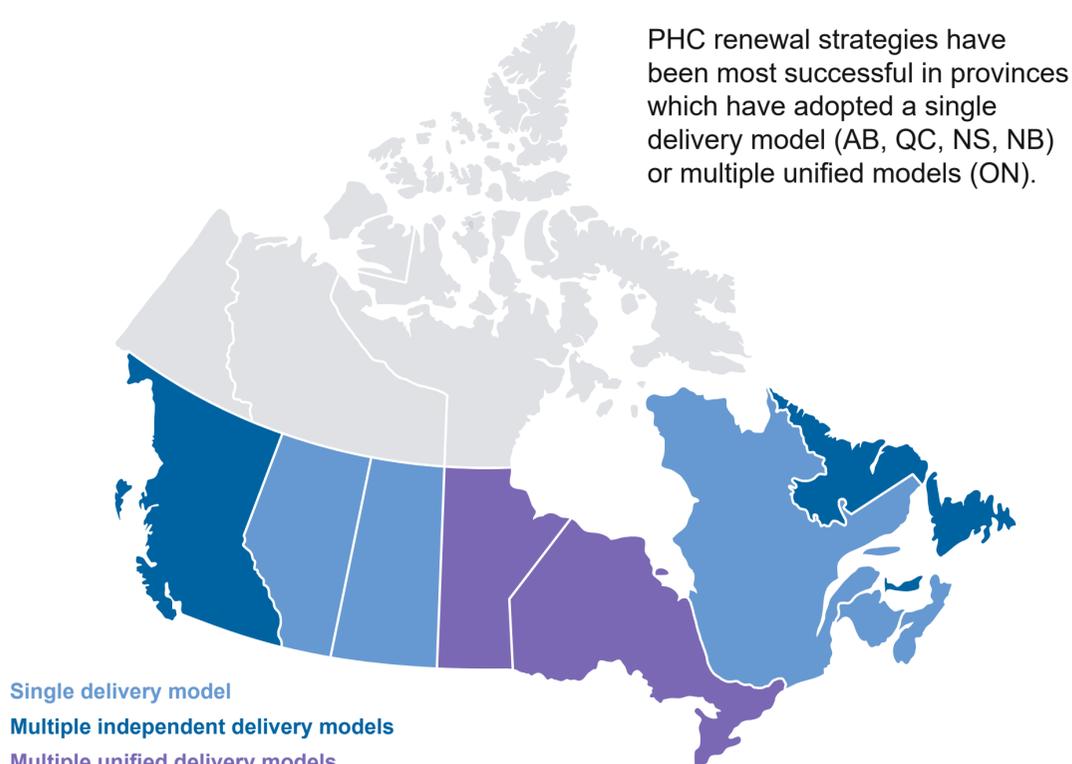
### Primary Care Network

- Geographically defined family practice model
- Voluntary enrollment of health care providers
- May include:
  - health promotion
  - chronic disease management
  - care coordination
- Includes:
  - extended office hours
  - 24/7 access



**Present** in AB, BC, PEI, MB\* (\*the My Health Team model resembles the Primary Care Network model)

## PHC Renewal Strategies



## Key Messages

PHC delivery models are more available, comprehensive and coordinated in some provinces.

Most Canadians with complex care needs do not have access to the services they require.

Additional investments are required to integrate care across primary care and health and social services.



Most PHC is not well integrated with social and public health sectors.

This work is the basis to support the development of models of care that connect health, social and community services.

## Impacts of this study

This study supports further research and informs policies on the best and most promising approaches to integrated care. The goal is to help develop models of care that connect health, social and community services.

## Next Steps

Although many provinces are moving in the right direction and these models/strategies demonstrate potential, the impact of change is not well measured. Without evaluation, the ability to spread and scale up these new ideas is limited.

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