

**Subject:** CITES Canada - Response to Notification on zoonotic diseases  
**Date:** Monday, 17 April 2023 at 21:56:44 Central European Summer Time  
**From:** Cites (ECCC)  
**To:** Thea Henriette Carroll, UNOG-UNEP-CITES Info  
**CC:** Jubinville,Lise (ECCC), Down,Erin (elle, la | she, her) (ECCC), Carolina Caceres [EC GC]  
**Attachments:** Canada's approach to prevent zoonotic diseases- draft.docx

Dear CITES colleagues,

In response to Notification No 2023/028, please find attached the contribution and response from Canada.

Best regards,

**Lise Jubinville**

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Canada is committed to a collaborative One Health approach that involves and mobilizes partners - in trans-sectoral, coordinated efforts with a mutual understanding of desired outcomes - across human health, animal health, and environmental health sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic reinforces the critical importance of strengthening trans-sectoral One Health approaches to integrate disease prevention, including the prevention of zoonotic pathogen spillover at source, as well as detection, surveillance and response.

In this regard, the Health Portfolio involves Health Canada (HC), Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). It also includes participation of other government departments such as Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

In response to [Notification 2023/28](#), *Risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*, Canada has prepared the following list of several initiatives and measures that are in place to prevent and mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains including markets.

- **Pan-Canadian Approach to Wildlife Health:** This initiative outlines a proactive, coordinated approach for managing wildlife disease and the associated benefits from healthy wildlife populations and the ecosystems they rely on, bringing together various levels of government, Indigenous organizations, academia and Non-Governmental Organizations with responsibility for and knowledge of wildlife health. It overlaps with other Government of Canada initiatives taking an “intelligence” approach to be aware of vulnerabilities and to take steps to be prepared to address them. Partially operational.
- **Pan-Canadian Framework and Federal Action Plan on Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Use:** It was published in 2017 and outlined activities under four pillars: surveillance, infection prevention and control, stewardship, and research and innovation. The Pan-Canadian Framework provides the foundation for further action among partners in human and animal sectors to minimize the impact of AMR, and to ensure that antimicrobials will continue to be an effective tool in protecting the health of Canadians.
- **Pan-Canadian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada (PCAP):** The PCAP is being finalized in collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous partners, and stakeholders to define and validate specific priorities for collaborative action against AMR, in light of COVID-19 lessons learned to

date, and by adopting a One Health approach that acknowledges the interplay of human health, animal health, agriculture, food production and the environment.

- **Establishment of the AMR Task Force as a focal point for a One Health approach to AMR in the federal government:** PHAC's AMR Task Force will prioritize and accelerate AMR initiatives and actions by coordinating and convening other domestic and international partners.
- **Collaborative One Health Research Initiative on Epidemics (COHRIE):** Investment by the IDRC in support of research consortia based in low- and middle-income countries conducting One Health research on emerging epidemic threats.
- **The Infectious Disease and Climate Change (IDCC) Program and Fund:** The IDCC delivers on federal commitments in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF) to advance climate change adaptation and resilience focusing on preparing for and protecting Canadians from climate-driven infectious diseases that are zoonotic (including vector-borne), food-borne or water-borne. The Program and Fund are implemented via a One Health approach.
- **Northern Contaminants Program:** Led by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), this program has coordinated environmental contaminants and wildlife health monitoring studies, along with human biomonitoring, conducted by Indigenous communities and organizations in partnership with ECCC, DFO, Health Canada and other organizations. Information collected in the NCP provides crucial One Health information concerning food safety and security, human and animal health, preservation of biodiversity, and information important for decision-making for the maintenance of a traditional way of life.

There are also important initiatives related to the implementation of the One Health Approach to Disease Surveillance in Canada, including:

- **The Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS):** The CIPARS is a national integrated surveillance program which is coordinated by the Public Health Agency of Canada's Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases and the National Microbiology Laboratory in collaboration with federal, provincial, and private industry partners. CIPARS collects, analyzes, and communicates trends in antimicrobial use and in antimicrobial resistance for select bacteria from humans, animals, and retail meat across Canada.

- **The Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (CARSS):** CARSS synthesizes and integrates epidemiological and laboratory information from Public Health Agency of Canada surveillance programs and its partners across the human and agriculture sectors to provide high quality national data on AMR and AMU. This comprehensive surveillance provides essential data needed to inform interventions that prevent the spread of antimicrobial-resistant organisms and consequent infections, guide the appropriate use of antimicrobials to limit the emergence of resistance, create opportunities for innovative research and development, and measure the impact of stewardship and infection prevention and control activities.
  
- **FoodNet Canada:** FoodNet Canada is a national integrated food safety sentinel site surveillance system facilitated by the PHAC in collaboration with public health jurisdictions and provincial public health laboratories. FoodNet Canada collects information at the community level on human illness cases (i.e. exposures and behaviours) and along the farm to fork continuum (i.e. retail food, farm animals, and local water) to identify trends in human disease occurrence, exposure sources, and attributes illnesses to sources and settings for targeted enteric pathogens. Information on the potential sources of risk to human health helps direct food and water safety actions and programming as well as public health interventions, and to evaluate their effectiveness.
  
- **COVID-19 and Animals:** In order to address COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 virus) at the human-animal-environment interface, Canada has created a multisector and multijurisdictional One Health Working Group, and several Sub-Working Groups (e.g. farmed mink, wildlife, country foods). Key aspects of this work focus on prevention and response activities (e.g. surveillance, diagnostics, risk assessment, development of guidance, risk mapping, other), and the development of communication materials for technical and public audiences.
  
- **West Nile virus and Mosquito-borne diseases (MBD):** Surveillance of WNV in Canada is based on a highly integrated and collaborative One Health approach between partners in human, animal, and environmental health and across levels of government. The system integrates data from humans, sentinel animals (e.g. horses, birds) and mosquitoes to identify areas where WNV transmission is occurring, which informs preventive interventions and identifies areas where people are most at risk of infection.
  
- **Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS):** The CAHSS is an independent, member-driven network of networks with broad based support from industry and

governments that focuses on animal health information. CAHSS is using data collection and analysis to stay on top of trends, minimize potential impacts, and gain further insight.

- **Training for WOAHA Delegates and National Focal Points for Wildlife:** Canada participates in the Regional Workshop for the Americas Region. This workshop is organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health provides training, tools and support for the surveillance of animal diseases, control of animal products intended for consumption and to respond to threats from animal diseases.