

UPDATE FROM THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

TOWARDS A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ARTHRITIS

August 10, 2012
35 days to the launch

What have we done to date?

Since the Arthritis Alliance's July 17 Steering Committee and Annual General meetings, we have been working hard on editing the National Framework document formally entitled: *JOINT ACTION ON ARTHRITIS: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada*.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to report that the following organizations have agreed to join the Arthritis Alliance. The organizations will be included in the release version of the National Framework following membership approval at an upcoming Special Meeting of Members to be announced.

Alberta Bone and Joint Institute
Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre
Bone and Joint Canada
Canadian Alliance of Pediatric Rheumatology Investigators
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Chiropractic Association
Canadian Obesity Network
Canadian Physiotherapy Association
McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health

This will bring the number of Alliance member organizations to 31. We anticipate more requests over the next few weeks and the list will include many more in following publications.

If you know any other organizations that would be interested in and aligned with the Arthritis Alliance initiatives, please let us know by contacting the Arthritis Alliance office.

jcoish@mtsinai.on.ca or 416-586-4770.

HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE SUBMISSION

The Arthritis Alliance has submitted an application to appear before the Standing Committee on Finance as part of the Federal government's pre-budget consultation process. This is an



important step for the Arthritis Alliance as we promote the National Framework to the federal and provincial governments across Canada.

Following translation and online publication, the submissions will be circulated to all members of the House Finance Committee, who will then identify those who they would like to invite to make oral presentations. Hearings are expected to begin in September 2012. The Standing Committee will then table a report in the House of Commons prior to the December 2012 parliamentary break.¹

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Strategic meetings with the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) have proven fruitful! Through the Alberta branch of the CMA, a delegate motion will be presented at the CMA General Council which supports the work of the Arthritis Alliance and the National Framework. The motion reads as follows:

The Canadian Medical Association advocates that governments invest in a pan-Canadian approach to evaluate and implement a national arthritis framework for innovative and interdisciplinary models of care for arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions.

We should hear if the CMA has adopted the motion by the end of August.

Where are we now?

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The National Framework document is nearly ready! The document has undergone editorial review and has been sent for translation and desktop publishing. The Executive Committee will review the pre-release version before it goes to print. Embargoed copies of the National Framework will be sent to members prior to its release on **September 18, 2012**.

Development of an Initial Implementation Priorities document is now underway which will clearly articulate the immediate actions that will be taken over the next 1-2 years and the ensuing cost and resource requirements. This information will support the National Framework launch in September.

THE LAUNCH

The launch will involve a national media campaign and an official event to take place at the **McCaig Tower in Calgary, Alberta at 10:00 AM mountain time on September 18, 2012**.

Our PR/GR partner, Edelman, is currently working with us to develop key messages and a national media campaign for the launch. Focused stories on the impact of arthritis are being pitched to the media and video clips will be developed and featured at the launch event. All materials will be posted on the AAC website on the day of the launch

The decision to launch the National Framework in Calgary enabled to the event to coincide with the Music in Motion event. This could potentially give more media coverage to the event. A Launch Planning Committee has been struck and, with generous help from the McCaig Institute, details of the event logistics and media coverage are being finalized. The event will be webcast and recorded so that those who can not attend in person will be able to see the launch.

GOVERNANCE AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

Progress is being made on establishing the membership, reporting structures and priorities of the committees that will help coordinate the implementation of the National Framework. The committees are:

- **Awareness** led by Tracy Folkes Hanson and Denis Jeans
- **Models of Care** led by Michel Zummer and Cy Frank
- **Research** led by Claire Bombardier and David Hart.

What's next?

While a lot of attention is being focused on the launch of the National Framework, the Arthritis Alliance Executive is also working on the plans following the launch. The key deliverables following the launch will be the development of a formal 5-8 year business and operational plan and a PR/GR plan to support the implementation of the National Framework. The formal business plan will be completed before the end of October.

In anticipation of government approval of the new bylaws, the new Board of Directors will be constituted soon. The Board nomination slate will be reviewed and approved by teleconference at a Special Meeting of Members to be announced shortly.

How can you be part of the solution?

At the outset, we want you at the table. We can't do this alone or in a vacuum. Your contributions will be critical to ensuring that the Framework is as comprehensive and attainable as possible.

If you have ideas for new or existing initiatives with a target date of the coming year which could be incorporated into the NF Initial Implementation Priorities document, please let us know.

You can help and get involved by:

- Visiting www.ArthritisAlliance.ca
- Providing feedback. Give us your ideas
- Give us an update to share with the group
- Tell us about your upcoming events, initiatives and announcements that are aligned with the National Framework

- Help promote the launch of the National Framework
- Telling our story and telling yours
- Telling your friends and family
- Writing and calling your local MP/MPP, your Premier, Minister of Health, etc.
- Sharing on Twitter, Facebook and other social media channels

Updates from our members

BONE and JOINT CANADA

Over the last few years Bone and Joint Canada has developed models of care for hip and knee replacement and for hip fracture care. In working with the provinces this approach has been extremely successful in facilitating improvements to patients' access and care across the health care system.

Over the last few months BJC has supported the work of the Arthritis Alliance of Canada to identify how this model of care approach can be used to improve care for patients experiencing other forms of arthritis. The Arthritis Alliance of Canada has developed an evaluation framework through a series of 3 meetings with leaders from across Canada. In conjunction with this work BJC has worked with its healthcare leadership from all of the provinces from across Canada to understand better understand approaches in developing models of care and has written a document on Model of Care Proposal Development which has been posted on the Bone & Joint Canada web site at www.boneandjointcanada.com

BJC is committed to working with the other health care partners in musculoskeletal care to improve care for patients and sees opportunities on a national basis to learn from each of the excellent initiatives currently in place, or under development, across the country in arthritis care. Work is currently underway to identify opportunities to leverage the learnings from projects in spine care from Saskatchewan and Ontario with opportunities to launch a project in the fall 2012 to support the release of the AAC Arthritis Framework document.

Further questions about this work can be directed to Rhona McGlasson at Rhona.McGlasson@bell.net

Public Health Agency of Canada

Agency's 2010 Arthritis Surveillance Report is now available on the PHAC website. The report's landing page can be found at:

English: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cd-mc/arthritis-arthrite/index-eng.php>

French: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cd-mc/arthritis-arthrite/index-fra.php>

Further questions about this work can be directed to Siobhan O'Donnell at siobhan.odonnell@phac-aspc.gc.ca

THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESSES, STORIES AND PROJECTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK EFFORT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO BE FEATURED HERE, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO [JCOISH@MTSINAI.ON.CA](mailto:jcoish@mtsinaion.ca).

ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada, formerly the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP), was formed in 2002. Its goal is to improve the lives of Canadians with arthritis.

With more than 20 member organizations, the Arthritis Alliance brings together arthritis health care professionals, researchers, funding agencies, governments, voluntary sector agencies, industry and, most importantly, representatives from arthritis consumer organizations from across Canada. While each member organization continues its own work, the Alliance provides a central focus for national arthritis-related initiatives.

For more information about the Arthritis Alliance, please contact:

Jaime Coish at 416-586-4770 or jcoish@mtsinaion.ca
www.arthritisalliance.ca

¹ <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=5638993&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=1>