

UPDATE FROM THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

TOWARDS A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ARTHRITIS

August 16, 2012
33 days to the launch!

What have we done to date?

As the next few weeks are crucial to the success of the launch and post launch activities of the AAC, this is our second weekly e-newsletter to all the partner organizations to keep everyone updated on the activities supporting the launch of the National Framework:

JOINT ACTION ON ARTHRITIS: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada.

We would also like to include initiatives that your organization is undertaking in this newsletter which are aligned with the National Framework, so please let us know if you have some information that you would like to share with our community.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to report that two more organizations have agreed to join the Arthritis Alliance:

Canadian Academy of Sport & Exercise Medicine
Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology

These organizations will be approved at an upcoming Special Meeting of Members which will be announced shortly and will bring the number of Alliance member organizations to 33.

If you know of any 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.

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION – SUCCESS!!

We are very pleased to report that, at their recent meeting of the General Council, the CMA has approved the delegate motion supporting the work of the Arthritis Alliance and the National Framework. The approved 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 will be approaching other associations to see if they will support the National Framework cause through similar actions.

Where are we now?

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

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

THE LAUNCH

Planning for the launch is underway at a feverish pace. As stated previously, the launch event will take place at the **McCaig Tower in Calgary, Alberta** at **10:00 AM mountain time** on **September 18, 2012**. The event will be webcast and recorded so that those who can not attend in person will be able to see the launch.

What's next?

THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION

The Arthritis Alliance will be reaching out to the Council of the Federation (COF) to promote the National Framework and propose that the focus of their work moving forward should be on arthritis. A letter is being prepared to Loretta O'Connor, Executive Director of the Council to request a meeting with Alliance representatives to discuss how we can work with the provinces in identifying and delivering on mutual objectives and improving outcomes for those living with arthritis right across Canada.

The COF consists of all Canada's premiers and was built to create a more constructive and cooperative federal system. In January 2012, the Council announced the development of a Health Care Innovation Working Group, with a focus on enhancing provincial/territorial capacity to better meet new challenges in our health care systems, including the needs of seniors, patients with chronic diseases and Northern populations. AAC's National Framework aligns well with the Council's commitment to developing strong, innovative, high quality health care systems and a high quality of life for all Canadians.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIAISON

Arthritis Alliance representatives will be meeting with the Hon. Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary and member of the Canadian House of Commons, representing the riding of Oshawa in the province of Ontario for the Conservative Party of Canada, to discuss the National Framework and learn what opportunities may be available for Federal involvement in this initiative. The meeting is scheduled for the end of August at which time we will provide a summary of the discussion.

How can you help promote the National Framework?

Wondering how you can help with the launch of the National Framework? Promotional materials will be available soon so please consider the following:

- Post materials and the AAC website link on your website
- Circulate National Framework materials to your network of contacts
- Send your information or list of events which we can share with the community

Finally, the National Framework is a living document and its priorities will continually be updated as new issues and challenges are revealed. To this end, keep sending us your suggestions and ideas for the National Framework.

How can you be part of the solution?

You can also 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

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) has made available, through open-access portal of the Journal of Rheumatology, guidelines for the management of Rheumatoid Arthritis. To view these guidelines and related documents, click on the link below or copy and paste the web address provided into your web browser address bar.

[Editorial overview of 2011/2012 CRA Recommendation for RA](http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1497.full.pdf+html)

(Link: <http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1497.full.pdf+html>)

[Pre-Guideline National Needs Assessment Results](http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1555.full.pdf+html)

(Link: <http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1555.full.pdf+html>)

[Part 1: 2011/2012 CRA Treatment Recommendations for RA](http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1559.full.pdf+html)

(Link: <http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1559.full.pdf+html>)

[Part 2: 2011/2012 CRA Safety Recommendations for RA](http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1583.full.pdf+html)

(Link: <http://jrheum.org/content/39/8/1583.full.pdf+html>)

Calendar of Events

September TBD	Arthritis Alliance of Canada Steering and AGM teleconference
September	Arthritis Awareness month (Repeat: please send us your activities)
September 18	Launch Event for the National Framework, 10:00 AM (Mountain), McCaig Tower, Calgary, AB
September 21-23	The Arthritis Society/CAN Trainee Workshop, Deerhurst, Huntsville, ON
October 12	World Arthritis Day
October 16	World Spine Day
October 17	World Trauma Day
October 19	World Pediatric Bone & Joint Day
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day

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:

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www.arthritisalliance.ca