

Anti-racisme Soins de santé Audacieux, stratégique, implacable **Équité en santé** *Intersectionality* **Équité numérique** Justice sociale **Déterminants sociaux de la santé** *études* Wellbeing Health care **Systemic inequities** **Health equity** Bold, strategic, relentless **Iniquités systémiques** *Partenariat* **Accountability** *Anti-oppression* **Humilité** *Droits de la personne* **Health Equity Charter** **ACCÈS COMMUNAUTÉ** *Transformative Change* **Solidarity** *Anti-racism* **Digital equity** *ACCESS* **Humility** *Human rights* **Social justice** **ACTION** **INCLUSION** **COMMUNITY** **ACCESS** **Health**

Health Equity Charter 101

April 2021



Alliance for Healthier Communities
 Advancing Health Equity in Ontario

Health Equity Charter 101

The Alliance for Healthier Communities is the voice of a vibrant network of community-governed primary health care organizations.



What Unites Us



Vision

- The best possible health and wellbeing for everyone in Ontario

Mission

- We champion transformative change for people and communities facing barriers to health.

Values

- **Equity:** We champion an equitable, inclusive and respectful primary health care system.
- **Leadership:** We challenge the status quo with integrity and transparency and are catalysts for system innovation.
- **Collaboration:** We embrace community-driven cooperation and partner to influence change.
- **Knowledge:** We act and learn from a community-informed and evidence-based approach.



Our Dual Role

We are problem solvers for system-wide change. We present solutions that will support significant shifts to achieve improved health and wellbeing for people and communities facing barriers.

We provide strong support to members who improve health and wellbeing in communities across Ontario.



Learn More: Alliance Orientation Webinar

- Alliance 101: Alliance's vision, mission, strategic directions and structure
- Webinar is 20-30 minutes and is available in both English and French.

English: <https://vimeo.com/288195512>

French: <https://vimeo.com/288195718>



Alliance for Healthier Communities
Alliance pour des communautés en santé

Health Equity

Why it's important

**What does health equity mean
to you?**



What is Health Equity?

- Health equity is giving everyone the opportunity and resources they need to achieve their optimal health and wellbeing.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified health equity as a global public health priority.
- According to WHO, health equity requires a clear and measurable commitment to “the fair distribution of resources needed for health, fair access to the opportunities available, and fairness in the support offered to people when ill”.
- The concept of health equity focuses on preventable health inequalities (as distinct from biological ones). It is grounded in human rights principles and asserts the right to good health as fundamental and interrelated with all other human rights.



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Health Equity in Ontario

- Approximately **1 in 5 people living in Ontario are at a higher risk of poor health outcomes** according to the 2012 report by the Alliance for Healthier Communities (back then Association of Ontario Health Centres).
- Poor health outcomes are most often tied to poverty and race. However, health inequities are shaped by multiple intersecting and compounding identities and histories.
- **Ontarians who live in northern regions** lose more years to premature death than the national average.
- **Newcomers** find it more difficult to access health services than people born in Canada.
- **Indigenous Peoples** have lower life expectancies and higher rates of serious chronic diseases.
- **Francophones** rate their overall health lower than the rest of Ontarians.
- **South Asians**, the largest racialized group in Ontario, have diabetes rates of 11-14%, compared to 5-6% for non-racialized Ontarians.
- **2SLGBTQ+** have larger health risks than other populations.



Health Equity Charter

Our Journey

Reasons for Health Equity Charter Refresh

In 2019, the Alliance Board launched Health Equity Charter refresh to ensure it aligns with our evolving understanding of health equity, ally relationships and reconciliation, anti-Black racism and its impacts on the health and wellbeing of Black people. Some of the gaps identified:

- No recognition of Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands
- No reference to anti-Black racism
- Need for stronger language that highlights various intersectionalities and how they impact health and wellbeing
- Need for more accountability mechanisms



Health Equity Landscape

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action report (2015)
- Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019)
- Ontario's acknowledgement of Anti-Black racism and consequent action plan to tackle it (2017)
- United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)
- Update on the White Paper on Francophone Health in Ontario (2018)



Health Equity Charter Refresh Process

- Consultations with the Alliance's four priority groups:
 - Indigenous Primary Health Care Council
 - Black Health Committee
 - Francophone Advisory Group
 - Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ (Rainbow) committee
- Conducted an environmental scan of relevant documents, reports and tools
- Consultations with Alliance members



Refreshed Health Equity Charter: What's Different

- Stronger stance against white supremacy, racism, colonialism
- Recognition of Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands and our commitment to decolonization, reconciliation and building ally relationships
- Recognition of racism, especially against Indigenous and Black people, and the way it impacts health and wellbeing
- Recognition of barriers faced by various groups in Ontario, including Francophones, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQ+, Black and racialized communities; rural, remote and Northern communities; underserved urban neighbourhoods; seniors; those who are without a documented status; newcomers and refugees, etc.
- Stronger language that highlights various intersectionalities and their compounding impact on health and wellbeing
- Stronger commitments section and accountability mechanisms



Next Steps: Implications for Members

- Alliance members review and endorse the revised Health Equity Charter.
- Members renew their commitment and review the progress of putting the Health Equity Charter into Action annually.
- Self-assessment tool will be developed in consultation with members. Members can use the tool to review their progress and submit annually so that Alliance can develop the necessary educational supports.



Discussion: Putting Health Equity Charter into Action

- **Strengths:** Looking at the Health Equity Charter commitments section, in what areas has your organization been working well to advance health equity in your organization and the communities you serve?
- **Opportunities:** In what areas, do you think you need to do more work?
- **Supports:** How can the Alliance support your health equity work and putting the Health Equity Charter into action?



Next Steps: Tools and Resources

- The Alliance is developing communications and educational materials to support Alliance members putting Health Equity Charter into action, including:
 - Communication materials: short version of the Charter, posters, website copy, infographics, etc.
 - Educational materials: resource guide, webinars, resources repository.
 - Templates and tools, including self-assessment tool
 - Capacity building opportunities, i.e. Governing for Health Equity training; governance sessions at the conference, etc.
 - Sharing best practices across membership through Board to Board report, portal, webinars, conference



Health Equity Charter 101

For more information:

www.AllianceON.org/Health-Equity-Charter

Send your questions to:

communications@AllianceON.org

Human rights

Solidarité

Health equity

Health care

Anti-racism

Bold, strategic, relentless

Partnership

ACCÈS

ALLIANCE

Health

Human rights

Intersectionality

CHARTRE

Humility

POUR

Anti-oppression

L'ÉQUITÉ

EN SANTÉ

COMMUNITY

Transformative Change

Anti-racism

Iniquités systémiques

INCLUSION

Digital equity

Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands

Social justice

Bien-être



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