



# Roundtable on Socio-Economic Determinants of Health

DEVELOPING INSIGHTS AND ENGAGING BUSINESS TOWARD  
A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS CANADA

## Creating Health Requires Working Together

### **The Challenge**

Many social and economic conditions impact the health of people and communities. Collaboration is essential for overcoming institutional fragmentation and achieving better health outcomes for Canadians.

### **The Opportunity**

Experience suggests that improved health can lead to improved productivity and economic growth.

Improved integration policies and actions across sectors, and greater collaboration to achieve shared goals, could significantly improve the health of Canadians.



# Roundtable on Socio-Economic Determinants of Health

## WHO SHOULD JOIN

Thought leaders from business, government, academia and local communities, as well as from various sectors such as education, health, housing, transportation and urban development, have an impact on health and wellness outcomes.

## ROLE OF THE ROUNDTABLE

Members of the Roundtable seek to:

1. Build insights through research and dialogue about successful policies and practices that address socio-economic determinants of health.
2. Promote collaboration among business, governments and other organizations by identifying solutions to health challenges—solutions that they can jointly undertake for maximum impact.
3. Provide a forum for learning that draws on the experience and knowledge of members as well as Conference Board experts and invited speakers.
4. Improve the strategic program and policy positions of member organizations by facilitating adoption of best practices and policies.

## A Healthy Collaboration—Points of Value

The Roundtable on Socio-Economic Determinants of Health focuses on social, economic and environmental conditions that collectively influence the health of individuals and communities. It is increasingly recognized that health and well-being are best assessed where these elements converge.

The Roundtable will help you to:

- **Turn research into action**

Join a national team of thought leaders working together across government, business and communities to address the socio-economic determinants of health. Research findings will help you move from debate to concrete action with a focus on collaborative strategies involving business, governments and other key organizations.

- **Gain leading insights on issues and practices**

The Roundtable brings together stakeholders with knowledge and experience across multiple jurisdictions. Join us to position top policy priorities for making Canada a healthy and productive nation.

- **Make the evidence-based case**

Political and civil service leaders, as well as employers and the public, are eager to realize better policy results. These results can best be achieved by marshalling the evidence that can support collaborative strategies including partnerships and best practices across sectors.

- **Contribute to an integrated policy framework**

The Roundtable explores ways in which policy integration across all levels and domains of government can build stronger communities that support healthy living. An integrated policy framework aims to reduce institutional





# The Agenda

Lead the dialogue and illuminate policies and actions that bring the power of collaboration to address the socio-economic determinants of health. Improve the lives of Canadians.

fragmentation and competition, focusing instead on complementary roles. It will enable stakeholders to understand the determinants of health and their interrelationships, and to identify potential collaborative actions for improving the well-being of Canadians.

- **Improve performance through peer-to-peer networking**

While collaboration across sectors and organizations is essential for dismantling obstacles, it also helps build a powerful network of professional contacts and access to information resources.

- **Leverage your organization's contribution**

The Roundtable strives to build awareness across a broad spectrum of business and organizations about the impact of policies and practice that aim to address social and economic inequities that affect health.

- **Build awareness of the economic consequences of poor health**

There is increasing evidence about the two-way relationship between health and economic growth. Poor and vulnerable populations are not able to contribute fully to social, political, cultural or economic development in their communities. Help build the economic case for social spending as a human capital investment.

- **Engage business to instill a broader understanding**

The Roundtable provides opportunities to engage business in important dialogues about the socio-economic determinants of health. Help create an increased focus on the role of business in the determinants of health agenda.

**“Poverty is a personal tragedy for everybody it afflicts. That alone justifies action. However, the case to fight poverty is further strengthened if poverty is costly not only to those directly affected but society more generally. The [societal] cost is so large that substantial efforts are warranted to fight it.”**

—Don Drummond  
Senior Vice President and Chief Economist  
TD Bank Financial Group

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**ENGAGE. PROVIDE FEEDBACK. GET RESULTS.**

**“Maintaining and improving the social determinants of health—i.e., the living conditions Canadians experience at home, community, and work—is emerging as the key issue facing Canadian policy-makers at the beginning of the 21st century. The Conference Board of Canada’s decision to focus on the social determinants of health is an essential contribution to Canadians’ future prosperity, health, and quality of life.”**

— Dennis Raphael, Ph.D.  
York University

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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