



**Pacific NorthWest  
Border Health Alliance**

***Forging Ahead***

**Eighth Annual Cross Border Workshop  
Orientation Session**

**Victoria BC May 24, 2011**

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***Consultation - Collaboration - Cooperation***

# Chronology

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) - 1991

Western Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee - 1996

Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) – 1996

*Ad Hoc Cross Border Public Health Preparedness  
Working Group - 2002*

British Columbia-Alberta MOU- 2004

British Columbia-Washington MOU - 2006

PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007

# Ad Hoc Cross Border Working Group

## Objective:

Establish an inter-jurisdiction collaborative approach to mitigate and respond to the public health impact of both routine disease outbreaks and catastrophic health emergencies across the Canada-United States border.

# Accomplishments

- ▶ **Cross Border Workshops**
- ▶ **24/7 Emergency Contact List**
- ▶ **Electronic connectivity**
  - BCCDC added to CDC Epi-X electronic alerting system
  - Adjacent states and provinces added to Washington State SECURES electronic alert network
- ▶ **Cross Border Epidemiology Exercises**

## Recognized need to:

- **Institutionalize** ad hoc working groups to ensure sustainability
- **Maximize** capacity to address extraordinary demands impacting the public health and health care delivery systems
- **Reinforce** existing informal communication/ collaboration between cross-border public health partners
- **Implement** WHO International Health Regulation

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***Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance  
(PNWBHA) - 2009***

# Current Signatory Jurisdictions



**Alaska**



**British Columbia**



**Idaho**



**Oregon**



**Montana**



**Saskatchewan**



**Washington**



**Yukon**

# Objectives

To prevent and/or mitigate communicable disease outbreaks through integrated surveillance and early notification;

To respond to surge capacity demands on health systems and health resources efficiently and in a cost effective manner when public health emergencies arise; and

To assess current and explore future areas of operational responsibility that could result in efficiencies when providing health services.



# Opportunities

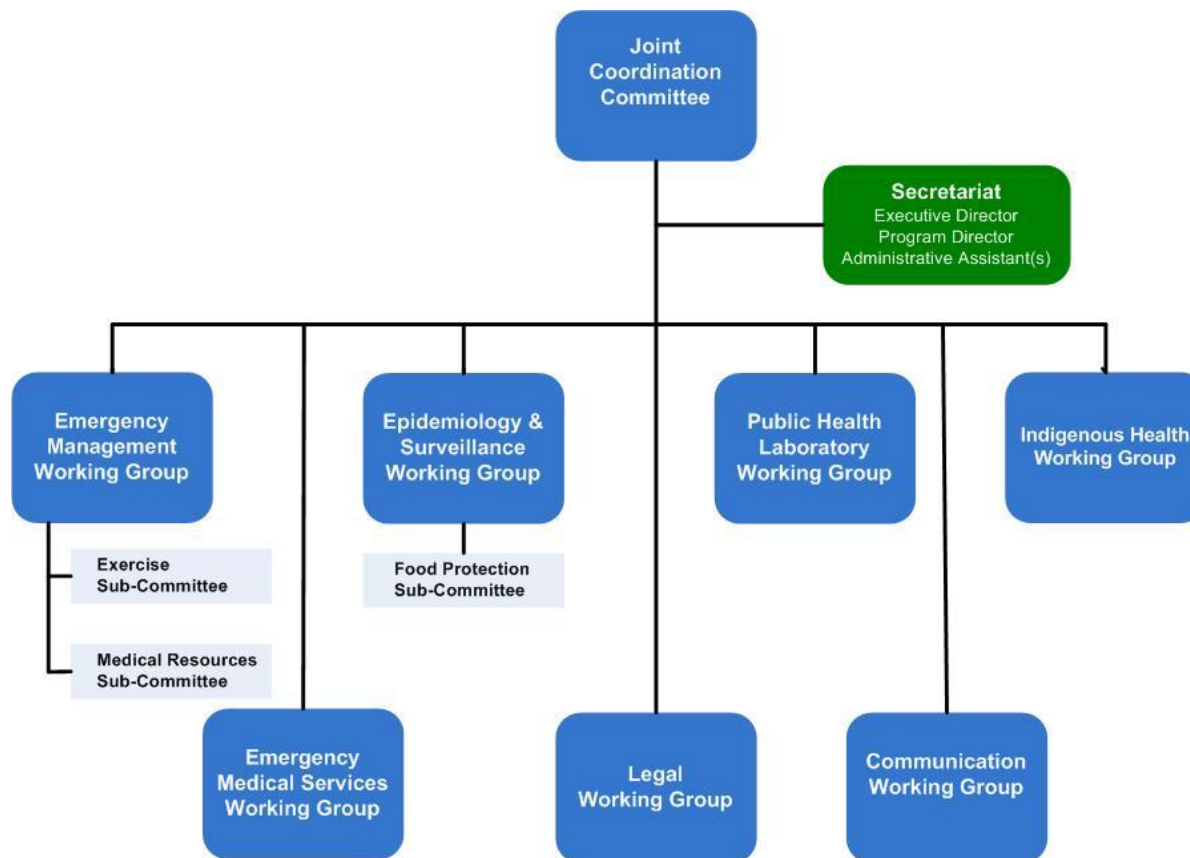
Build on established practice

Seamless transition - routine to emergency operations

Enhanced interoperability through regular use

Platform for collaborative work on chronic disease and healthy public policies

# Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)



Note: Secretariat is administratively supported by the BC Ministry of Health Services and WA Department of Health

# JCC Membership

## Core

- Co-Chair (Canadian and United States representatives)
- Signatory Representatives

## Expanded

- Working Group Leads

## Liaison

- Representative from the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Representative from United States Public Health Service

# Goals

- Identify opportunities to improve collaborative early warning infectious disease surveillance and information sharing between the participating jurisdictions, including the type of information to be shared.
- Develop plans to address surge capacity demands on health systems and resources when public health emergencies arise, including a 24/7 response protocol.
- Assess current and explore future areas of collaboration that could result in efficiencies in the provision of health services
- Conduct an annual Cross Border Public Health Preparedness Workshop.

# 2010/11 Accomplishments

- ▶ Creation of Exercise, Medical Resources and Food Protection Sub-Committees
- ▶ Launch of Indigenous Health Initiative
- ▶ PNWBHA joins the CA-US Pan Border Public Health Preparedness Council (PBPHPC)
- ▶ Montana joins Alliance
- ▶ Interoperable emergency communications initiative gains momentum

# 2011/12 Objectives

- ▶ Produce Working Group TORs and work plans
- ▶ Extend information sharing MOU to all interested Alliance jurisdictions
- ▶ Implement Operational Plan for cross border movement of EMS personnel and resources across Alliance
- ▶ Court North Dakota and Manitoba membership
- ▶ Expand cross border movement Operational Plan to include patients
- ▶ Introduce protocol to expedite the emergency cross border movement of pharmaceuticals.

# Ongoing Challenges

## ▶ Funding

- No dedicated funding stream
- States/provinces/territories volunteer to cover respective costs

## ▶ Maintaining Momentum

- Jurisdiction workload challenged
- Competing priorities



## **Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance**

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**<http://www.pnwbha.org>**