

Integrated governance for healthy public policies: a conceptual-strategic evaluation of two Canadian initiatives



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Québec 

Overview

1- Concepts and
implementation strategies

2- Limits, possibilities, trade-offs

3- On evaluation

1- Section 54: concept

- A law mandating healthy public policy promotion from Quebec's Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS) to other provincial ministries

- Horizontal management

- MHSS empowered to advise other ministries re: healthy public policies

- Ministries responsible for health impact assessments (HIAs) of laws and regulations they propose

1- Section 54: implementation strategy

- Development and transfer of knowledge re: healthy public policies
- Development and support of intragovernmental Health Impact Assessment mechanism

1- ActNow BC: concept

- The Olympics, an opportunity for an “integrated, coordinated partnership-based government platform to support healthy lifestyle choices and reduce the burden of disease” (ActNow BC, 2006a, p. 1)
- Whole-of-government
- Platform: integration and scaling up of ongoing activities; limited time-frame
- Five risk factors targeted; quantified objectives

1- ActNow BC: Implementation strategy

- A (small) team ...
 - Identifies partners and supports them in alignment or scaling up (know-how and funding)
 - Evaluates:
 - process; effects; managerial accountability

2 – Limits, possibilities, trade-offs

- Understanding of governmental power
- Control mechanisms and procedures
- Knowledge management systems

2- Understanding of governmental power

- Section 54: State centered, legalistic
- ActNowBC: coordination of public-private forces

2- Control mechanisms and procedures

- Incentives/accountability mechanisms
 - Section 54: no HIA? Project might be blocked; no other incentive
 - ActNowBC: prescriptions (all ministries); funding to offset costs or intensify

2- Knowledge management systems

- Availability and usability of knowledge re: healthy public policy
 - Section 54: important and highly systematized knowledge production and transfer capacity
 - ActNowBC: grounded in knowledge of «causes of causes» of risk factors, but these are not largely targeted in partnerships

3- On evaluation

- Attend to diversity of strategies and their respective possibilities, limits, **tradeoffs** (Louise St-Pierre et al.'s paper*)
- Attend to diversity of potential effects: process-related, **substantial, contextual**

- *St-Pierre, L. et al. 2009. Governance tools and framework for health in all policies. Produced for the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Accessed at: http://www.rvz.net/data/download/Microsoft_Word_-_defintieve_versie_10April09.pdf

Thank you!

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