



# Canadian Families: Policy Perspectives and Challenges

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# Overview

- Policy Research Perspectives for Understanding and Achieving Well-Being in Canada
- Challenges for Policy

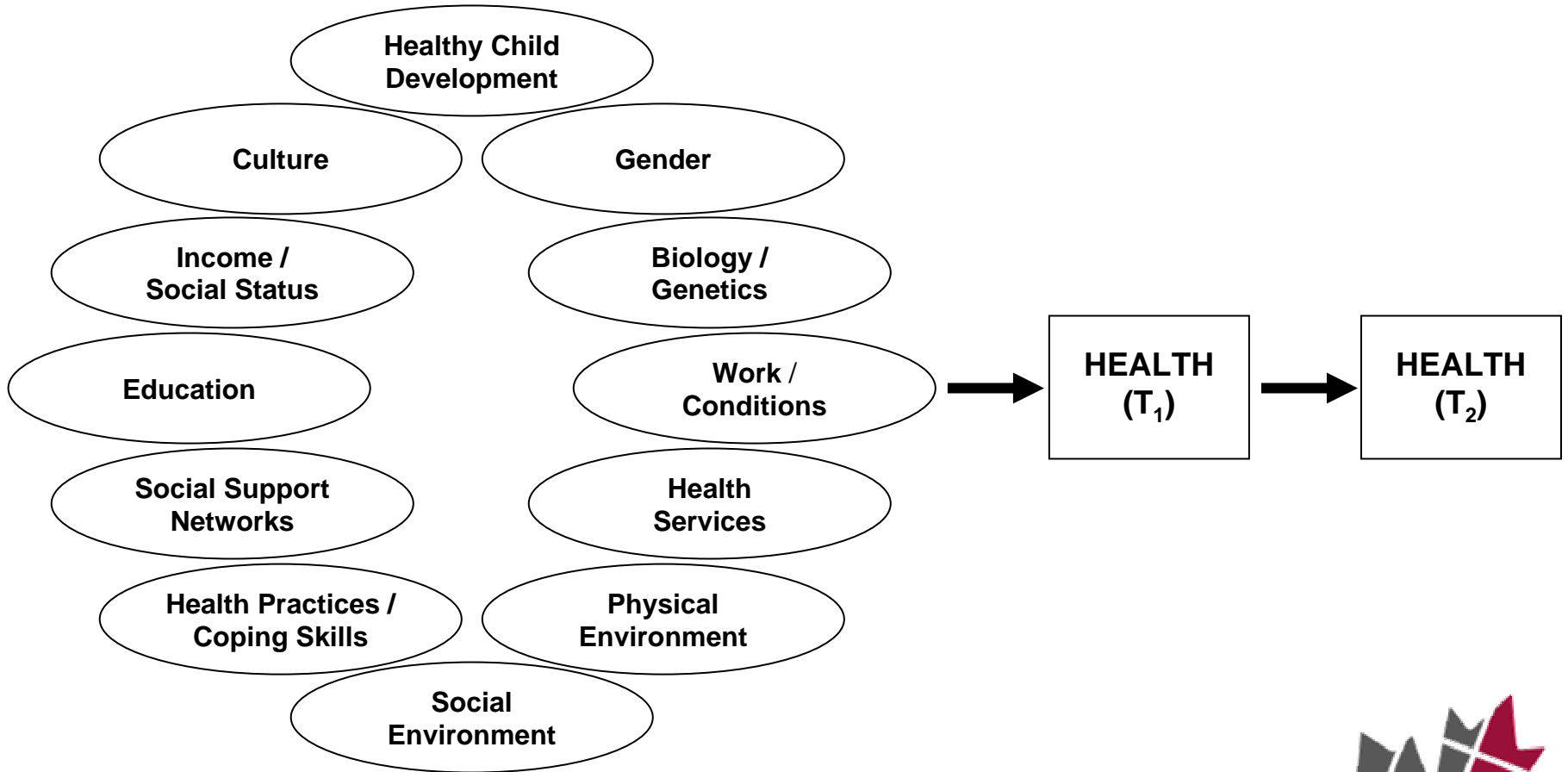


# Understanding Well-Being

- What things are important?
  - Determinants of Population Health
- Who is responsible?
  - The Well-Being Diamond
- Where is well-being achieved?
  - Place Matters
- When do we achieve well-being?
  - All the Time
- Why is well-being of concern?
  - The Values of Canadians

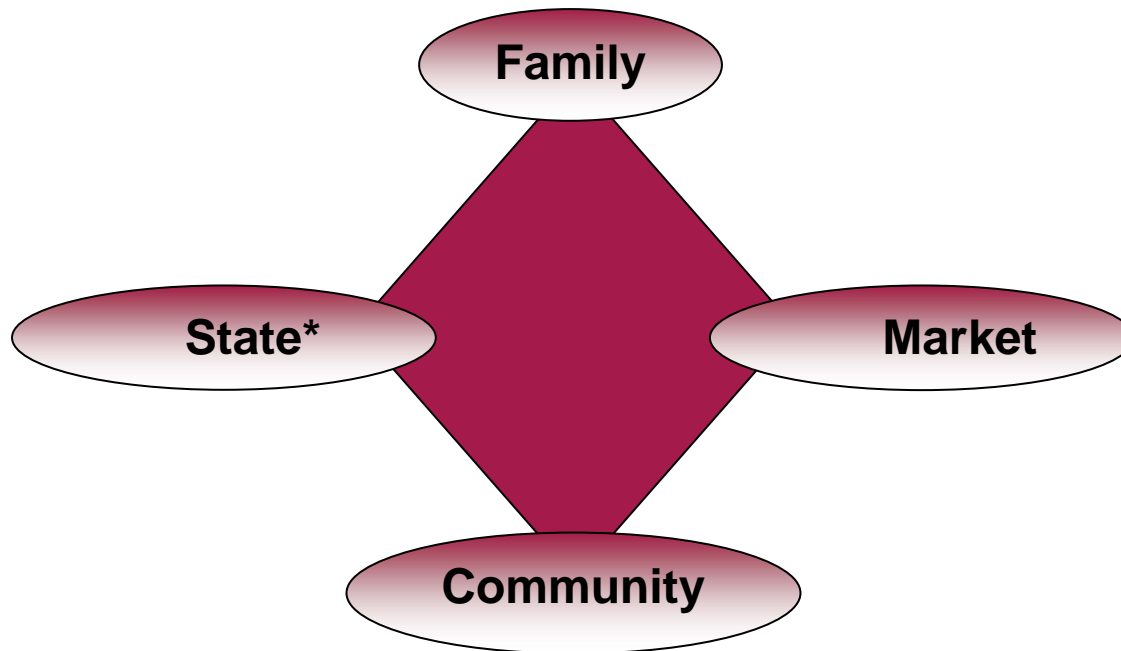


# What Determines Health?



# Who Is Responsible?

## The Well-Being Diamond



\*State includes governments (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) and core public services such as education and health care.

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# Place Matters

- Access to local knowledge and networks
- Where problems, and innovations, originate
- Variations of local experience means one-size *doesn't* fit all
- Policy and programs have to be responsive to a community's problems, capacity, culture and character



# A Challenging Process

- Achieving well-being involves an ongoing, dynamic and challenging process of knowledge development, understanding, implementation and reflection
- There are different priorities to be addressed at different periods over the life course



# Foundation of Canadian Values

- Sharing
- Caring
- Respect
- Accountability
- Truth (and its plurality)
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Engagement
- Diversity (e.g. culture, religion, lifestyle)





# Achieving Well-Being

- How Do We Achieve Well-Being?
  - Power
  - Governance
  - New Approaches, Collaborations?



# Governance Matters

- Working together
- Ensuring coherence in policy and programs
- Centralized *and* decentralized government doesn't work – collaborative governance is required
- Enhanced governance necessary to foster dialogue and build trust



# Challenges for Policy: Demographics

- Dependency ratios in Canada:
  - In 2005, 5 working age people for every person 65+
  - By 2025, 3 working for every person 65+
- Median age of Canadians at nearly 39 years
- By 2025, 20% of Canadians will be 65+
- Canadians retiring at a younger age:
  - 65 in 1976; 61 in 2005



# Challenges for Policy: Diversity

	<b>Base Population, <i>2001</i></b>	<b>Proportion of Population, <i>2001</i></b>	<b>Projected Population, <i>2017</i></b>	<b>Projected Proportion of Population, <i>2017</i></b>
<b>Immigrant</b>	5,655,900	18.5%	7,682,500	22.2%
<b>Racially Visible</b>	4,037,500	13.4%	7,116,200	20.6%
<b>Aboriginal</b>	1,066,500	3.4%	1,427,900	4.1%



# Challenges for Policy: Sustainable Populations

- What is the Policy Mix?
  - Immigration
  - Later retirement
  - Fertility
  - Family friendly policies
    - Baby bonus / child benefits
    - Child care / Elder care
    - Parental leave
  - Geographic distribution



# Challenges for Policy: Community Organizations

- Community organizations vital to Canadians
  - Economic contribution (over 9% of GDP), services, employment, innovation, civic engagement
- Sustainability?
  - Increasing demands to address community challenges
  - Increasing demands for efficiency and effectiveness
  - Increasing competition for dwindling resources



# What Do We Know?

- A solid understanding of community well-being – what it is and how to achieve it
- Canada's population continues to experience considerable change – demographic, social, economic, environmental and cultural
- So, there are still many challenges



# What to Do?

- Finding the balance, the resources and the supports for dynamic citizen and community engagement, shared learning and a commitment and ability to change
- Ensuring the inclusion and participation of all citizens in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the community and nation





# Recent CPRN Reports

- *Risk and Opportunity: Creating Options for Vulnerable Workers* (January 2006)
- *Building Blocks for Strong Communities* (March 2006)
- *Towards a Broader Framework for Understanding Accessibility in Canadian Health Care* (May 2006)
- *Frontline Health Care in Canada* (September 2006)
- *Public Involvement in Canada: Institutionalization and Assessment Roundtable* (October 2006)





For additional information:

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Diversity Gateway:

[www.cprn.org/en/diversity.cfm](http://www.cprn.org/en/diversity.cfm)

Join our weekly news service:

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