



STOP TB CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

MARCH 2022

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Stop TB Canada's second annual report since the reinvigoration of the network in 2020 celebrates our impact and growth between April 2021 and March 2022. This report illustrates how Stop TB Canada has delivered on its objectives this year through raising awareness, promoting policy action, and mobilizing communities affected by tuberculosis (TB). Each activity that the network engaged in this year helped move the needle towards realizing our vision of a world without TB. Stop TB Canada is a network that welcomes anyone who shares our passion and commitment to this vision of TB elimination. If you would like to get involved with Stop TB Canada, please refer to the last page of this report for all of the ways that you can connect with us. Together we can and must end TB.

ABOUT US

[Stop TB Canada](#) brings together individuals committed to ending TB at home and abroad, including researchers, advocates, practitioners, and TB survivors. This diversity provides a broad range of medical, social, and financial expertise needed to defeat TB. Stop TB Canada draws on the knowledge and experience of its members to create public awareness, promote policy action, and mobilize communities affected by TB. This shared platform enables cooperation and coordination among its members and other allied organizations to increase community participation in the fight against TB.

VISION
A WORLD FREE FROM TUBERCULOSIS

MISSION
TO GENERATE THE POLITICAL WILL TO
END TUBERCULOSIS EVERYWHERE



“ We are a network connecting people, organizations and communities committed to ending TB at home and abroad. ”

HOW WE WORK

To drive forward the work of the network in achieving our mission to end TB, Stop TB Canada conducts work based on a specific Statement of Work. This Statement of Work (listed below) was developed through the thoughtful collaboration of our Steering Committee and is continually referred to as we progress through our annual work plan. The Statement of Work is updated on an annual basis to ensure that the guiding objectives listed within remain relevant to the network and are priorities around which to center our work.



STATEMENT OF WORK

- We connect, support, and provide a platform of engagement for people, organizations, and communities committed to ending TB at home and abroad.
- We facilitate knowledge sharing between TB programs and activities across different sectors and stakeholders.
- We mobilize resources needed at the national and international level to end TB by developing strategic partnerships with communities, and public and private organizations.
- We work to increase public awareness of TB.
- We promote rights-based and person-centered approaches to support persons living with and affected by TB.
- We influence TB-related policies through strategic advocacy and by equipping and mobilizing advocates to take action.
- We hold Canada accountable to acting on the calls to action put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- We hold Canada accountable to achieving the Global TB targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals, the End TB Strategy, and the political declaration of the UN high-level meeting on TB in Canada and abroad.

MEET THE STEERING COMMITTEE

After the successful introduction of the Stop TB Canada steering committee in January 2021, we were delighted to see the continued engagement and increased involvement of this group through its second cohort. The Stop TB Canada steering committee was formed to guide the strategic development and implementation of the network by providing perspective, guidance, and expert advice on our operations. The committee is composed of a wide array of TB experts based in Canada, with a diversity of expertise and lived experiences. To learn more about the steering committee, its members, and their stellar work, please refer to this [blog post](#).



CO-CHAIRS

The work of the Stop TB Canada network is made possible by the effective leadership of our two co-chairs: Dr. Elizabeth Rea, Associate Medical Officer (TB Program) at Toronto Public Health, and Tina Campbell, TB Advisor for Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority.

CORE WORKING GROUP

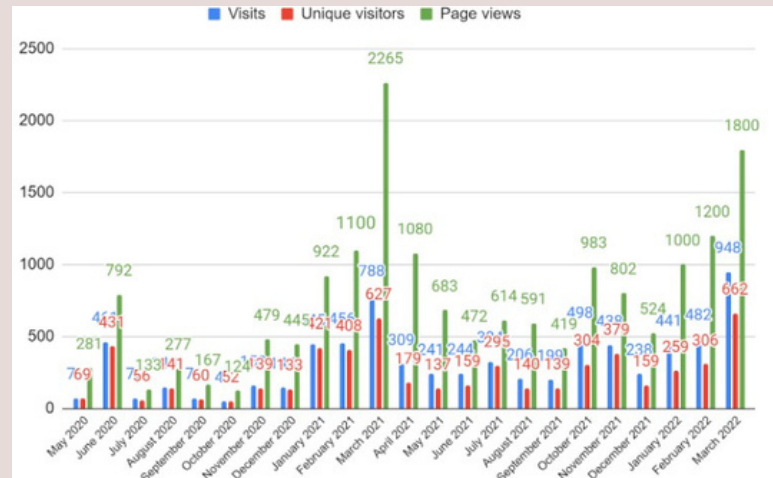
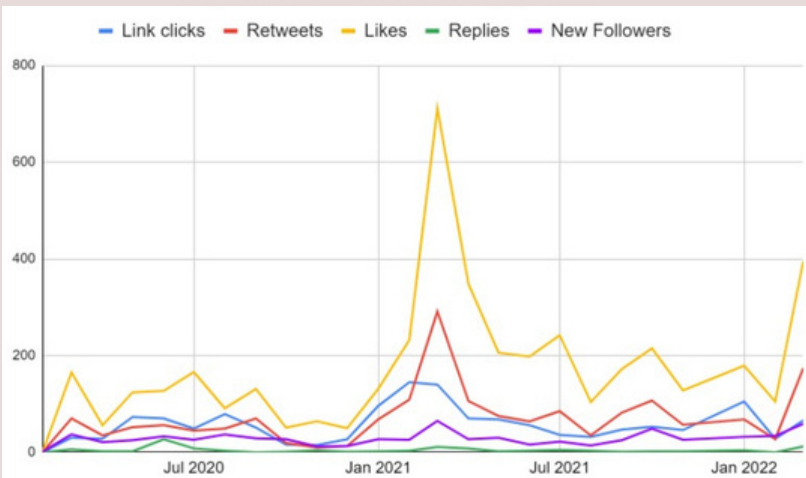
Stop TB Canada's day-to-day operations are driven by a small core working group, made up of policy experts, research students, and advocates. We would like to acknowledge the relentless work of Dr. Robyn Waite, Leigh Rathby, Lena Faust, Alexandra Zimmer, and Nawang Yanga – thank you.

OUR REACH

Over the past two years, Stop TB Canada has focused on building its communications channels in an effort to increase our community engagement and reach. Through consistent communication via social media, a regularly updated website, and timely newsletters (see 'Raise Awareness' section), Stop TB Canada has become a reputable source for TB information. The engagement of both our [Twitter](#) account and our [website](#) have steadily increased since they were launched in 2020. Please refer to the graphs below for a detailed breakdown of the progression of engagement for both our Twitter account and the website.

TWITTER ENGAGEMENT

WEBSITE ENGAGEMENT



A unique feature of the Stop TB Canada website that serves our objective of connecting people, organizations, and communities committed to ending TB is our [directory](#). Our directory is a platform to connect those working towards our mission with other like-minded individuals and organizations. It features advocates, researchers, practitioners, and survivors based in Canada in an effort to bring those working to end TB together, providing the opportunity for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action. Want to join our directory? Please refer to the last page of this report to learn more about how you can get connected.

OUR IMPACT

Realizing Stop TB Canada's vision of a world without TB is dependent on specific and strategic objectives to guide the work of the network. Stop TB Canada's operations are guided by the following overarching objectives:

1. RAISE AWARENESS

TB is an often neglected, forgotten, and misunderstood disease. Yet, it continues to inflict serious harm on millions of people around the world every year, and in fact was the infectious disease that killed more people than any other prior to COVID-19. Stop TB Canada is therefore committed to raising awareness of TB. The network engages in a variety of public awareness campaigns, communications, and strategic partnerships to increase the public's knowledge of TB. Learn more on page 6.

2. PROMOTE POLICY ACTION

Many of the factors that enable TB to thrive in Canada and around the world are rooted in policy (or lack thereof). Whether it be access to health care, the timely delivery of epidemiological data, addressing the social determinants of health, or providing health education to key populations - many of the systemic factors that contribute to the emergence of preventable diseases like TB are within the government's mandate to address. Stop TB Canada is therefore committed to educating parliamentarians about the issues and solutions that exist, and holding them accountable to the commitments Canada has made to TB elimination. Learn more on page 8.

3. MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY TB

"Nothing about us without us" is a phrase we often hear in health and social justice advocacy, and speaks to Stop TB Canada's belief that all of our actions should be based on the needs directly expressed by those affected by TB. The network makes an effort to engage members of the affected community to ensure that our actions will yield greater impact for those in the greatest need. In 2021, Stop TB Canada embarked on a project to build a sense of community for those affected by TB in Canada, to ensure that these individuals, their friends, and families, have the support they need to beat TB. Learn more on page 11.

1. RAISE AWARENESS

Stop TB Canada prioritizes knowledge sharing and awareness building as this is critical to move the needle forward in the quest to end TB. The network utilizes several different strategies to share information and educate the public about TB. Some of the activities that Stop TB Canada engaged in this year are listed below:

WEBINARS AND NATIONAL MEMBERS CALLS

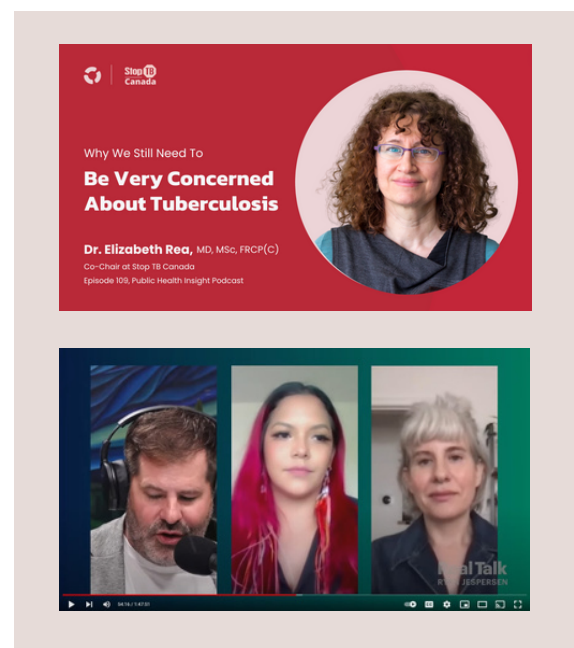
Stop TB Canada hosts regular virtual calls to share information and connect with others who are dedicated to the fight against TB. Every other month, the network holds a National Members Call, where we bring together TB advocates and researchers based in Canada for an informal meeting. These bi-monthly calls are an opportunity to connect with others who are committed to our mission, to collaborate, and share information. For example, our call in February 2022 centered on planning a [collective action on World TB Day](#) with our partners.

The network also hosts quarterly webinars, which are intended for a wider audience and aim to educate the general public about topics related to TB. These webinars are also great opportunities to work with our partner organizations who can contribute specific knowledge that would benefit the network. One such webinar was held in July 2021, in partnership with [CAAN](#) and [ICAD](#), titled [Unfinished business: TB, HIV and COVID-19 in our communities](#).

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Our members have increasingly been asked to engage with media outlets to speak about TB and the work of Stop TB Canada.

- Co-chairs Dr. Elizabeth Rea and Tina Campbell were invited to Public Health Insight's podcast to discuss [why we still need to be concerned about TB](#).
- Tina Campbell and Dr Courtney Heffernan were interviewed on [Real Talk Ryan Jespersen](#) to discuss how avoidable TB deaths at residential schools were a results of deliberate neglect and mistreatment.
- Dr. Elizabeth Rea and Lena Faust were [interviewed](#) by the Kingston Whig Standard on the impact of COVID-19 on TB programs in Canada.

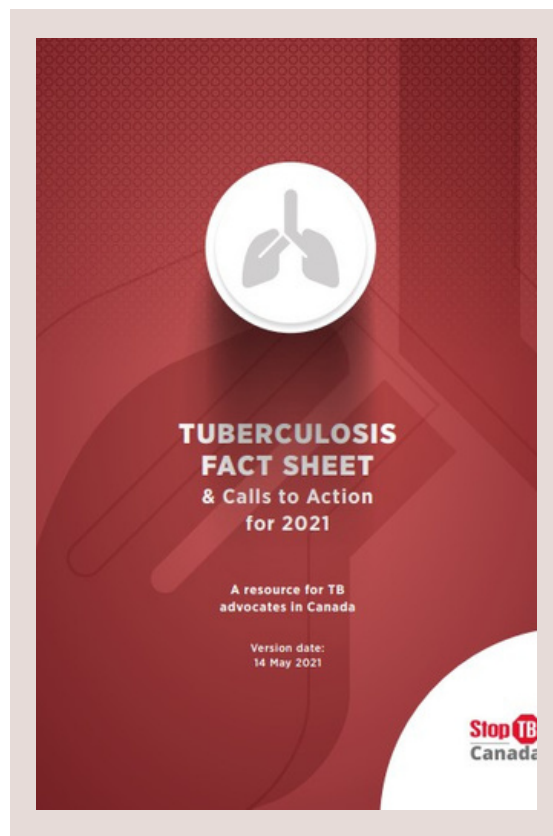


1. RAISE AWARENESS

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to speaking on various platforms about TB, our members have published articles, op-eds, and commentaries on our recent work. See below for a list of some of the pieces published by the network this year:

- [Tuberculosis Fact sheet](#) - Stop TB Canada
- [Residential school deaths from tuberculosis weren't unavoidable](#) - Stop TB Canada
- [The 100th Anniversary Of A Vaccine Against A Deadly Disease: Not A Cause For Celebration](#) - Lena Faust & Leigh Raithby
- [Often Neglected, TB Is the World's Biggest Infectious Disease Threat](#) - Trevor Stratton
- [World TB Day: Canada needs to invest in tools that will save lives](#) - Adam Houston
- [COVID-19 derails global quest to end tuberculosis](#) - Leigh Raithby
- [Tuberculosis advocacy is more important now than ever in the face of COVID-19](#) - Leah Goldschmidt
- [Canada is failing to track an ancient and deadly infectious disease](#) - Lena Faust



NEWSLETTER

The monthly Stop TB Canada [newsletters](#) serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, and a way to engage and strengthen ties among the TB community in Canada. For example, researchers from McMaster University working on an inhalable TB vaccine recently shared their work with the TB community via our newsletter.

CONFERENCES

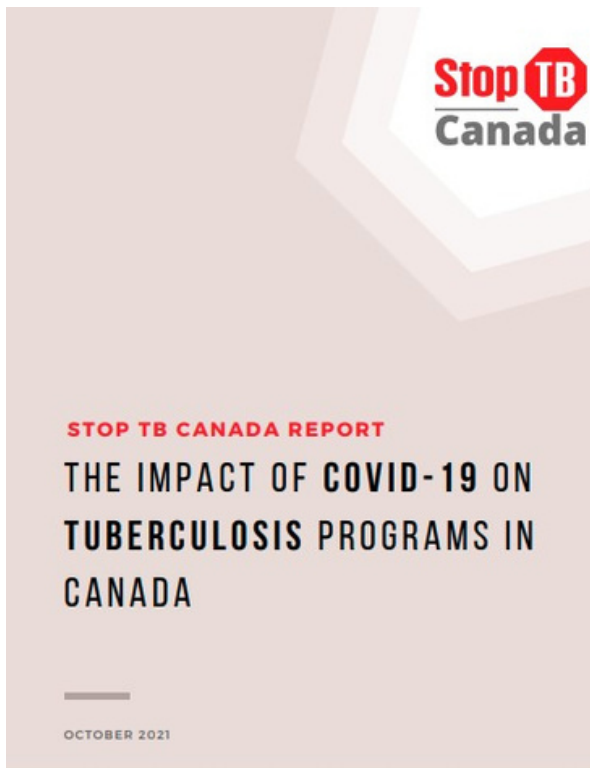
Stop TB Canada strives to engage with sector allies and partner organizations to share our messages within academic and clinical circles. The network held a session at the Canadian Conference on Global Health on the integral role of TB programs in the COVID-19 response and what must be done in return to end TB and strengthen health systems. The network also held a call at the NAR Union End TB Conference to speak about the work of the network and brainstorm with TB researchers, practitioners, and advocates about what policy and advocacy asks must be championed by the network to eliminate TB in Canada.

2. PROMOTE POLICY ACTION

Advocacy is key to Stop TB Canada's strategy to realize a world without TB. In addition to increasing the general awareness of TB, it is essential that our messages reach the right audiences - those who have the power to enact change. That's why Stop TB Canada engages with parliamentarians. Knowing that decision makers would want to see the evidence behind our messaging, Stop TB Canada embarked on a survey initiative to assess the impact of COVID-19 on TB programs in Canada. With this report (see below) in our belt, we engaged decision makers with the information they need to help us influence Canada's approach to TB elimination. Outlined below is an overview of the report, followed by how Stop TB Canada used it as an advocacy tool to build political champions for our efforts.

REPORT: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMS IN CANADA

Given the devastating effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on [TB care globally](#), the Stop TB Canada network felt it was urgent to better understand COVID-19-related disruptions to TB programs in Canada. We therefore conducted a survey of TB program leads and staff across the country, asking about their experiences during the pandemic. The survey found significant disruptions to TB programs across



Canada, including delays in TB diagnoses, large-scale diversions of staff away from TB work to the COVID-19 response, and essential public health activities for TB control (such as active case finding, contact tracing, and the management of latent TB infection) being severely hindered. Based on these findings, we issued several calls to action with regard to getting back on track to end TB in Canada.

The findings were also presented to various stakeholders at a launch event for the report in October 2021, where TB program leads, TB researchers and policymakers were present, including Dr. Tom Wong, Chief Medical Officer of Public Health for Indigenous Services Canada.

Read the full report on the results of this survey accompanied by a list of calls to actions for Canada [here](#).

2. PROMOTE POLICY ACTION

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT

After confirming that COVID-19 has devastated TB programs in Canada (and having the evidence to back this up), Stop TB Canada started to share the findings of our report with decision makers.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

The survey report was initially shared with roughly 70 Members of Parliament (MPs) who are in regions of Canada with a relatively high incidence of TB. Along with this outreach, we requested to meet with MPs to discuss this issue further. Since this outreach in late 2021, the network has met with six MPs to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on TB. Thank you to Salma Zahid, Robert Oliphant, Han Dong, Francesco Sorbara, Melissa Lantsman, Vance Badawey, and Arif Virani for meeting with Stop TB Canada.

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

With several of the issues pertaining to TB elimination in Canada falling under provincial and territorial jurisdiction (for example delivery of healthcare services), Stop TB Canada recently engaged with the provincial and territorial governments for the first time. On World TB Day (March 24, 2022), the survey report was sent to the Ministers of Health of various provinces and territories in which TB remains a concern, requesting a meeting with the Stop TB Canada network. So far, the network has secured two meetings with representatives from Saskatchewan and Alberta.

FEDERAL BUDGET

In addition to direct engagement with parliamentarians, Stop TB Canada submitted to the Federal Budget consultation, outlining what is urgently needed from Canada to address the TB crisis. To learn more about our pre-budget submission, please visit [our blog post](#).



2. PROMOTE POLICY ACTION


HOLDING THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

Canada has committed to various domestic and global TB elimination goals, such as the goal to invest its fair share in TB research, to which countries agreed at the [United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB](#), as well as the domestic goal to [eliminate TB across Inuit Nunangat by 2030](#). However, with Canada's national TB data being [4 years old](#), it is difficult to track our current progress towards these goals, or form an evidence-based strategy for ending TB. For this reason, Stop TB Canada has compiled a TB Tracker to provide transparent tracking of progress towards the domestic and global TB elimination targets to which Canada has committed, and hold policy-makers accountable for progress towards these goals. The tracker will be updated as new data become available. Especially as this year's World TB Day theme was "Invest to End TB", we hope that the tracker becomes a valuable advocacy tool for calling on our government to invest the resources required to reach TB elimination goals. Key highlights from the tracker are summarized in [this article](#) by Lena Faust, member of Stop TB Canada.

Canadian Tuberculosis Tracker

- Introduction
- Summary scorecard
- Latest national TB surveillance report snapshot
- TB cases and incidence
- TB in children
- TB incidence by Province/Territory
- TB incidence in key populations
- Drug-Resistant TB
- TB treatment success
- TB deaths
- World Health Organization (WHO) estimates of the TB burden in Canada
- Canada's progress towards global and domestic TB elimination goals

Canadian Tuberculosis Tracker



Introduction

This tracker was compiled by [Stop TB Canada](#), to provide transparent tracking of progress towards domestic and global TB elimination targets to which Canada has committed, and hold policy-makers accountable for progress towards these goals. The tracker will be updated as new data become available. A glossary of terms and an overview of data sources are provided in the last two sections.

For questions about the tracker, or suggestions for improvements/additions to the tracker, don't hesitate to contact us at hello@stoptbcanada.com.

3. MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY TUBERCULOSIS

TB CONQUERORS

As Stop TB Canada began engaging with the TB affected community, it became evident that Canada was lacking a peer support network for people affected by TB. In response to this need, and based on the success of similar initiatives in other countries (such as [We Are TB](#) in the U.S.), Stop TB Canada embarked on the development of a support group for people affected by TB in Canada.

[TB Conquerors](#) was launched in December 2021 with seed funding from [Results Canada](#). TB Conquerors is a community for people living with TB, TB survivors, family members, and friends. The peer support group aims to provide a safe space for members to come together and share stories, experiences, and resources to foster feelings of togetherness and solidarity. The group will highlight the personal stories of its members to raise TB awareness and work to end the stigma that persists. It is a network created for people affected by TB, by people affected by TB. Nawang Yanga, who is currently working as a consultant to build and grow the network, is a member of the affected community as a family member and friend to several TB survivors. Through Nawang's own experience, and her research into similar initiatives, TB Conquerors is being built from the ground up - designed around the specific needs of those affected by TB.

The TB Conquerors project came to life this year with the setting up of communications channels, including the creation of platforms for communities to network on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Looking ahead, our immediate objective for the project is to reach those who need this support group. With a community in place, our long-term objective is to offer informal check-ins for TB Conqueror members, provide the opportunity for people to connect with each other, share their experiences, and offer support. If you work directly with people affected by TB, please get in touch with us or download our flyer to share within your clinic.



WORLD TB DAY

On March 24, 2022, Stop TB Canada joined our domestic and global partners in recognizing World Tuberculosis Day - a day to build public awareness of the TB epidemic and stand in solidarity with the millions of people affected by this disease. See below for a snapshot of our success this World TB Day, including building awareness, gaining political champions, and securing resources from Canada to #EndTB.

CANADA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO TB REACH

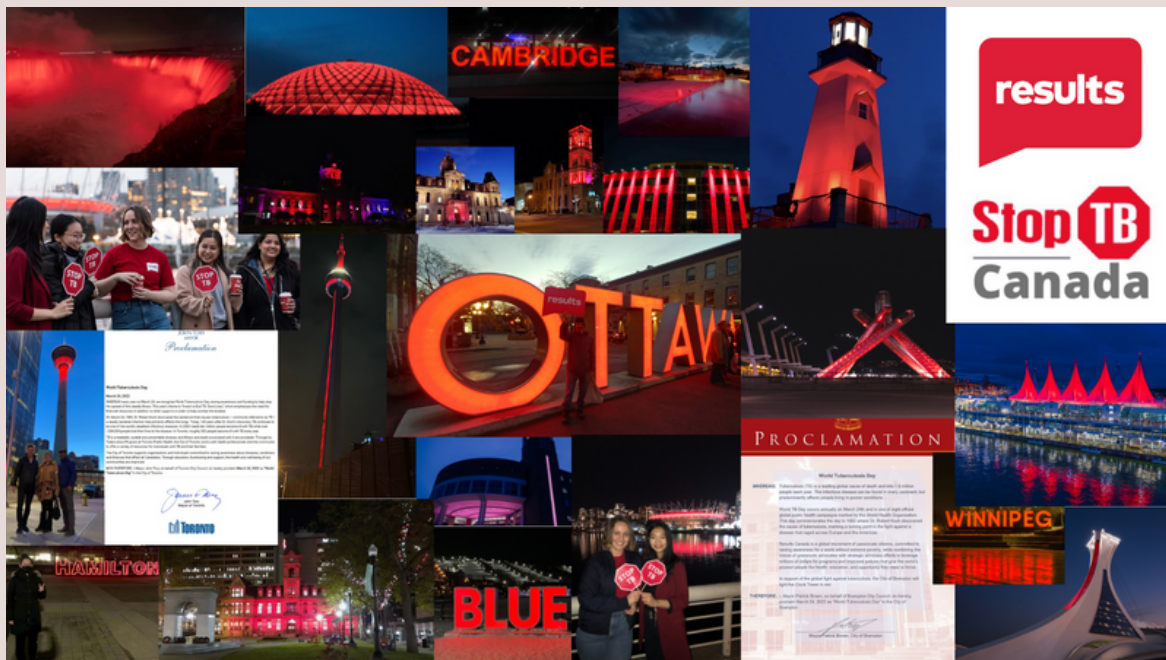
Stop TB Canada kicked off World TB Day with an in-person outdoor gathering in Ottawa hosted by our partner [Results Canada](#). At this event, the Honourable Minister of International Development, Harjit Sajjan, announced a new investment of CAD\$11 million in [TB REACH](#). He made this announcement alongside Lucica Ditiu (Stop TB Partnership), Chris Dendys (Results Canada), and Dr. Suvesh Shresthra (Stop TB Canada), stating that Canada "will continue to actively support initiatives who work tirelessly to find solutions that give hope to millions around the world who are fighting this terrible disease". Watch the recording of the event [here](#) and see the Minister's tweet about the announcement [here](#). We thank the Honourable Harjit Sajjan and Canada for taking this step towards TB elimination.



WORLD TB DAY

GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

The success of this World TB Day could not have been possible without our grassroots network of everyday advocates. With the dedicated support of Results Canada staff and volunteers, we got a record number of local landmarks lit up in red, secured mayor proclamations marking World TB Day, published articles on TB, wrote letters to the editors, and called for change on social media. In doing so, we were able to generate media coverage and draw the attention of decision-makers more than any other year on record.



This World TB Day, Stop TB Canada and Results Canada piloted a new tool to engage with our network, developed through Prezi. This interactive tool was designed to educate our network about TB, the impact of COVID-19 on TB programs in Canada and abroad, and call for the resources and policy changes needed to end TB. The Prezi features stories and videos produced by our partners that feature a variety of community voices and experts engaged in the quest to end TB. We encourage you to go through the Prezi to learn more [here](#).

WORLD TB DAY

PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

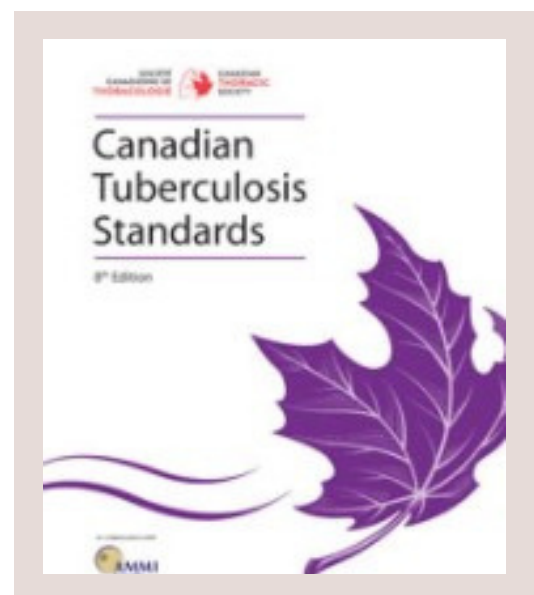
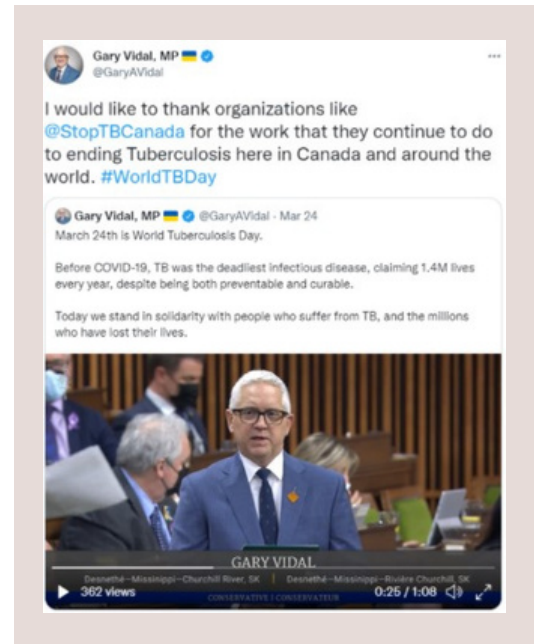
In addition to the six Members of Parliament that the network met with in the lead up to and around World TB Day, we would like to give a special thanks to MP Gary Vidal of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, who publicly recognized World TB Day in Parliament and called for urgent action in the quest to end TB among Canada's Indigenous communities. Watch the recording [here](#).

EVENTS

Members of Stop TB Canada's steering committee spoke loudly this World TB Day, through various online events. For a list of the events hosted by our members please refer to [our blog](#), and remember that you can see all upcoming events on [our website](#).

CANADIAN TB STANDARDS

Several members of the Stop TB Canada steering committee, including co-chair Dr. Elizabeth Rea and Dr. Courtney Heffernan were involved in the development of the recently published [Canadian Tuberculosis Standards - 8th Edition](#). The new edition was jointly produced by the Canada Thoracic Society and the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada, and was published on World TB Day. These standards are fundamental in guiding TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention in Canada.



LOOKING AHEAD

Reflecting on the past two years since a small group of motivated individuals took on the reinvigoration of the Stop TB Canada network, we are proud of the impact that the network has had in raising awareness, promoting policy action, and mobilizing communities affected by TB. This report demonstrates the value of such a network in realizing our vision of a world without TB. We've managed to grow our network exponentially and engage in meaningful advocacy in the fight against TB, both within Canada and abroad.

We want to increase our impact as Stop TB Canada continues to gain momentum in the fight against TB. Stop TB Canada is currently a volunteer run network operating with the in-kind support of people power and limited seed funding from committed partners like Results Canada. We welcome your support and engagement in our efforts. Please join us in the fight to end TB and help us grow so that we can make even more impact! We are looking for advocates, mentors, and funders. Please refer to our contact information below. Together we can and must end TB.

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT TO END TB



GET IN TOUCH

hello@stopTBcanada.com



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