



# Departmental Showcase

Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada

PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING CANADIANS  
TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH



## Moderators

### Emily Shearer

Job Title: **Policy Analyst, Cannabis Compliance Policy**

Department: **Health Canada, Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch**

[LinkedIn](#)



### Alanna Miller

Job Title : **Policy Analyst, Office of Pharmaceuticals Management Strategies**

Department: Health Canada, Strategic Policy Branch

[LinkedIn](#)

## About Us – Health Portfolio Overview

- The **Minister of Health** is responsible for maintaining and improving the health of Canadians. This is supported by the **Health Portfolio**, comprised of **5 federal institutions**



**FEDERAL  
HEALTH  
PORTFOLIO**

*The  
Honourable  
Jean-  
Yves Duclos,  
P.C., M.P.  
Minister of  
Health*



*The Honourable  
Carolyn Bennett,  
M.D., P.C., M.P.  
Minister of  
Mental Health  
and Addictions  
and Associate  
Minister of Health*

**Health Canada**

**Public Health Agency of  
Canada**

Canadian Food Inspection  
Agency

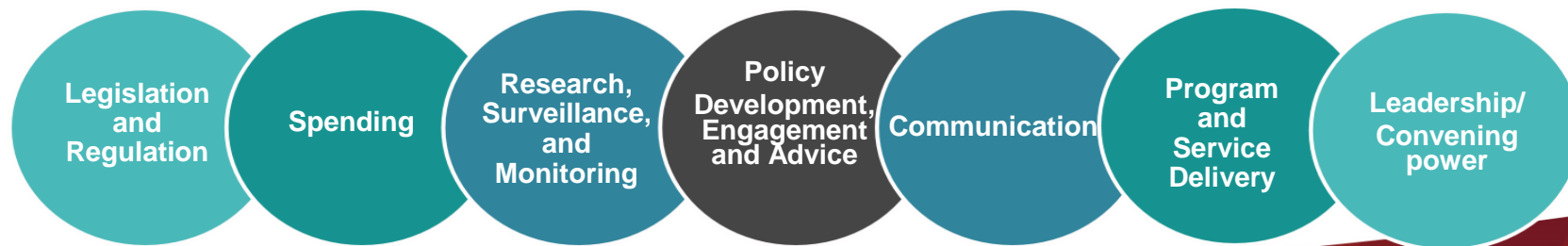
Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research

Patented Medicine Prices  
Review Board

- The **Canada Health Act** is the federal legislation that establishes criteria for publicly funded healthcare. Provinces and territories are responsible for healthcare service delivery that meet this criteria

Total Employees:  
**19,642**

### How the Federal Government can act in Health:




# About Us – Health Canada

**Mandate:** Helping the people of Canada maintain and improve their health

- Employees : **9 204** in March 2021 | **71,6%** work in the NCR
- Approximate annual budget of **\$3.9 billion**

## Health Canada's key functions:

	<p><b>Strengthening Canada's health care system</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting universally accessible, publicly funded health care for Canadians</b> through administration of the <i>Canada Health Act</i>, leadership on emerging issues, and cooperation with provinces and territories on system improvements</p>
	<p><b>Enabling access to safe and effective health products</b></p>	<p><b>Enabling access to safe and effective health products by</b> assessing and regulating health products, such as drugs and medical devices, to ensure their quality, safety, and effectiveness</p>
	<p><b>Managing risks to health</b></p>	<p><b>Managing the health risks</b> of harmful substances, cannabis, tobacco, controlled substances, consumer products, cosmetics, chemicals, radiation and pesticides, and reducing environmental health risks such as climate change</p>
	<p><b>Supporting Canadians in making safe and healthy</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Canadians in making safe and healthy choices</b> through public education and awareness campaigns to communicate health and safety information</p>

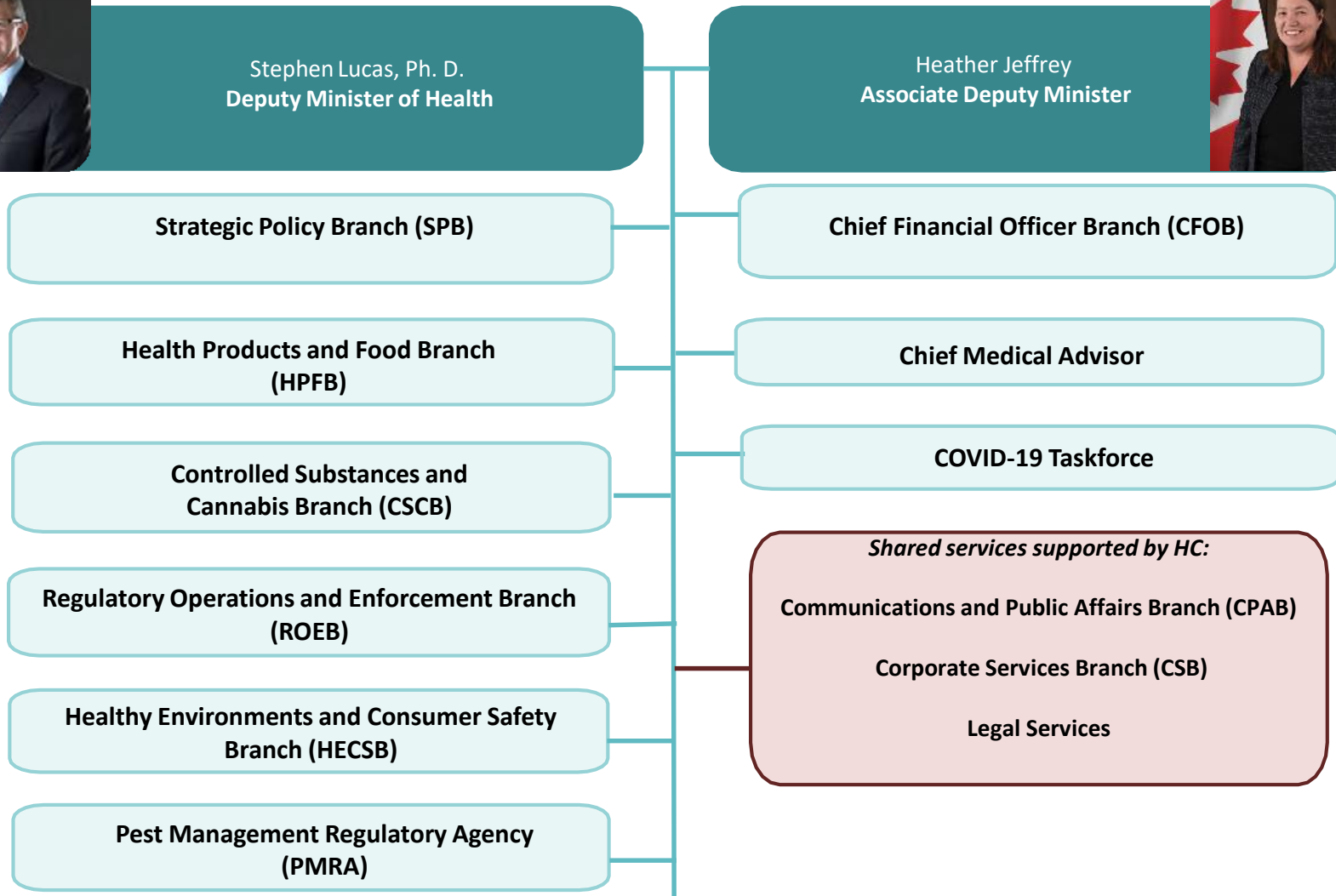
# Health Canada Organizational Structure



Stephen Lucas, Ph. D.  
Deputy Minister of Health



Heather Jeffrey  
Associate Deputy Minister









# About Us – Public Health Agency of Canada

**Mandate:** Promote and protect the health of Canadians through leadership, partnership, innovation and action in public health.

- Employees: **3,281** as of March 2021 | **60.4%** worked in the NCR
- Approximate annual budget of **\$10.3 million** (*COVID-19 funding makes up 90% of this budget at \$9.3 million*)

## PHAC's key functions:

 <b>Emergency preparedness and response</b>	<b>Planning for both natural and man-made disasters</b> to minimize serious illness, overall deaths and social disruption
 <b>Population health assessment</b>	<b>Understanding the health of communities</b> or specific populations, as well as the <b>factors that underlie good health or pose potential risks</b> , to produce better policies and services
 <b>Disease and injury prevention</b>	<b>Investigation, contact tracing, preventive measures to reduce risk of infectious disease</b> emergence and outbreaks, activities to promote safe, healthy lifestyles to reduce preventable illness and injuries
 <b>Health protection</b>	Actions to ensure <b>water, air and food are safe</b> , a regulatory framework to control infectious diseases, protection from environmental threats, and expert advice to food and drug safety regulators
 <b>Health surveillance</b>	The ongoing, systematic <b>use of routinely collected health data</b> for the purpose of tracking and <b>forecasting health events or health determinants</b>
 <b>Health promotion</b>	<b>Preventing disease, encouraging safe behaviours and improving health</b> via public policy, community-based interventions, public participation, and advocacy and action on environmental and socio-economic determinants of health

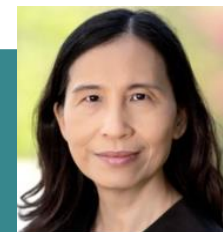
# PHAC Organizational Structure



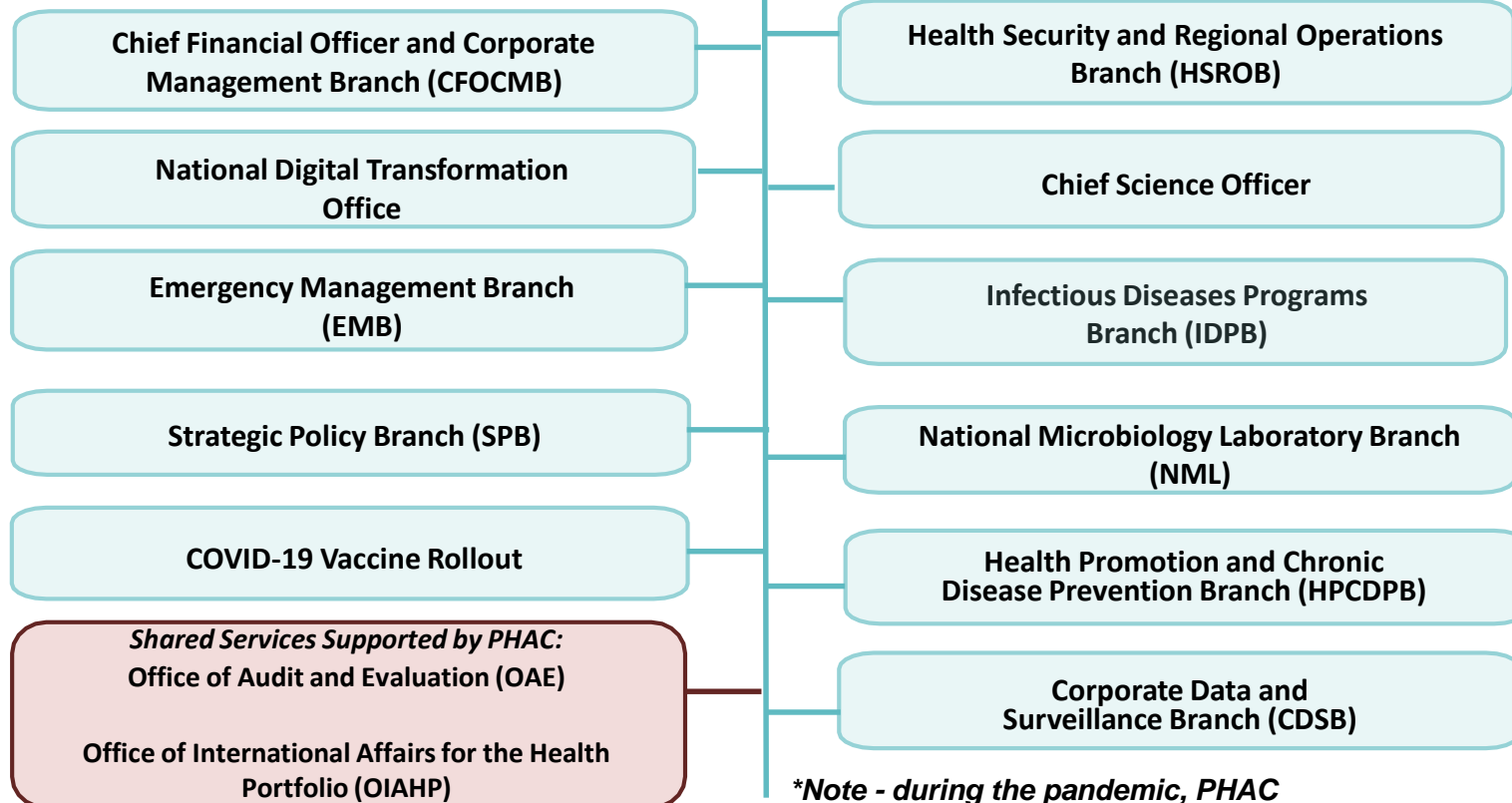
Dr. Harpreet  
S. Kochhar  
President



Kathy  
Thompson,  
Executive Vice  
President



Dr. Theresa Tam  
Chief Public Health Officer

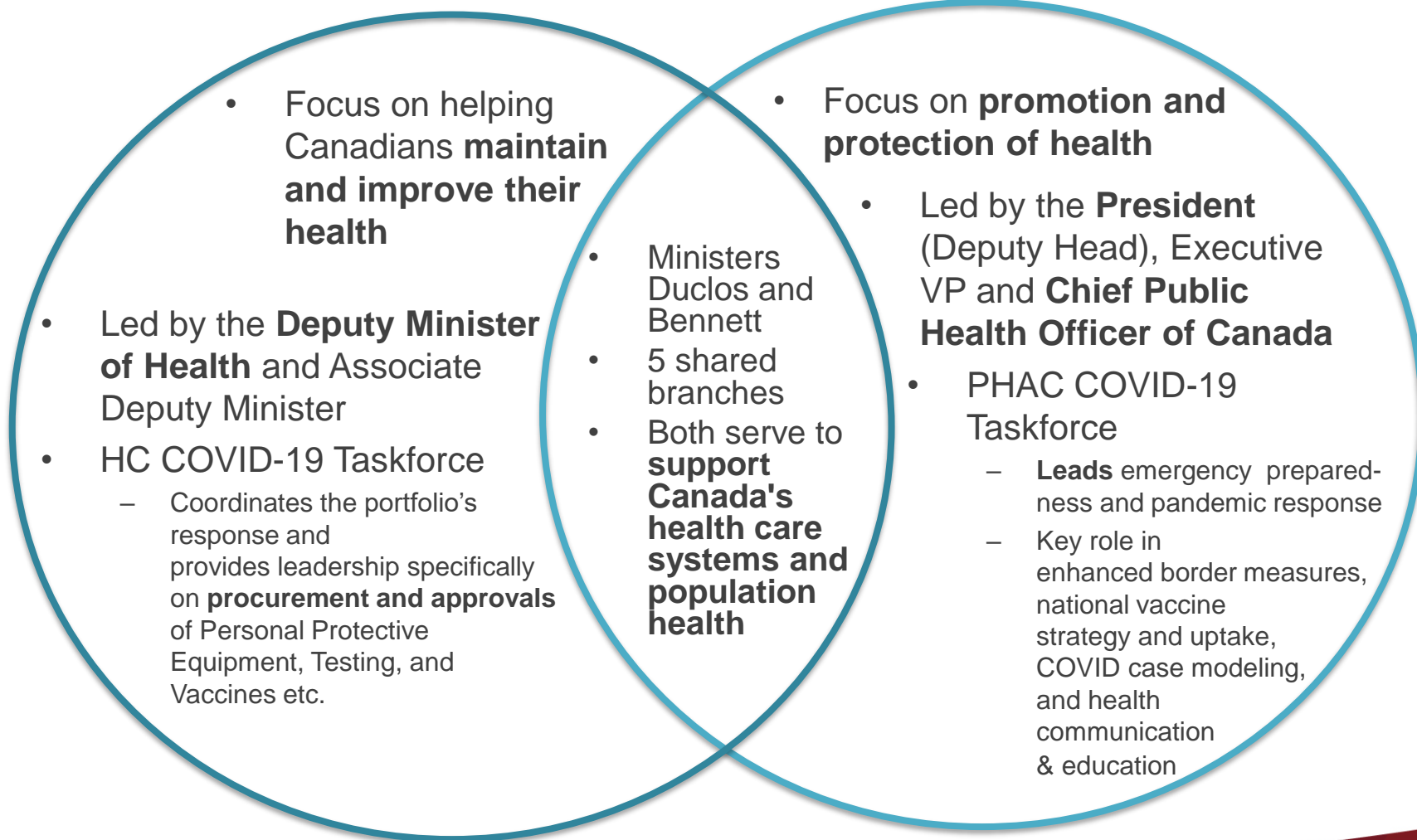


*\*Note - during the pandemic, PHAC has temporarily expanded in size, adding a number of branches to this organizational structure*

# The Similarities and Differences

## Health Canada

## Public Health Agency of Canada







# Welcome Panelists!

PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING CANADIANS  
TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH



## Beata Bak (she)



Job Title:  
**Scientific  
Evaluator**

Department:  
**Health Canada,  
Health Products  
and Food Branch**

### **Education / Career Background**

- PhD, Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- BSc, Physiology
- 6+ years in medical writing

### **Job Responsibilities**

- Analyze and interpret clinical and non-clinical data
- Provide recommendations on the therapeutic benefit/risk of pharmaceutical products
- Prepare scientific reports

### **What do you enjoy most about your department?**

- Collaboration: both within Health Canada and with international regulators

## Tammy Nguyen (she)



Job Title:  
**Manager**

Department:  
**Health Canada,  
COVID-19 Task  
Force**

### **Education / Career Background**

- Master of Economics, UBC
- Bachelor of Science, UBC

### **Job Responsibilities**

- Manage the Data and Analysis team in the HC COVID-19 Task Force since 2020.
- Provide regular and on-demand support and briefings to the DM with respect to COVID-19 data and analysis needs.
- Collaborate with colleagues across the Health Portfolio to monitor and track COVID-19 virus and take action where required.

### **What do you enjoy most about your department?**

- HC is a science-and-evidence-based regulatory department with a mandate centered on Canadian health which is in-line with my studies, experience and career aspiration.
- The department has provided me many opportunities for the past 13 years to work on important files such as strategic policy, international cooperation, and emerging health issues (Ebola, COVID-19, etc.)

## George Mammen (he/him)



Job Title:

**Sr. Policy Analyst**

Department:

**Health Canada,  
Controlled  
Substances and  
Cannabis Branch**

### **Education / Career Background**

- PhD, Exercise Science, University of Toronto
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

### **Job Responsibilities**

- Monitor, assess, and report on the cannabis evidence-base
- Craft evidence-based public messaging on cannabis' health effects
- Inform development of data collection at Health Canada (e.g., Canadian Cannabis Survey)

### **What do you enjoy most about your department?**

- Impactful work, variety of tasks, empathetic management

## Kelsey Vercammen (she/her)



Job Title:

**Epidemiologist**

Department:

**PHAC, Health  
Promotion and  
Chronic Disease  
Branch**

[LinkedIn](#)

### **Education / Career Background**

- BHSc (McMaster University); MSc and PhD in Epidemiology (Harvard School of Public Health)
- Past roles:
- University Research Assistant
  - Healthcare Consultant
  - Epidemiologist for local health department

### **Job Responsibilities**

- Conduct surveillance on maternal/infant health
  - Analyze health admin data
  - Design national surveys
  - Identify key indicators and data sources
  - Develop reports, manuscripts, presentations, and other knowledge translation products

### **What do you enjoy most about your department?**

- Ability to learn about diverse array of health issues from real experts in the field

# Marie-Élise Maurice (she/her)



Job Title:

**Director of Policy**

Department:

**PHAC, COVID-19  
Vaccine Roll-out  
Task Force**

[LinkedIn](#)

## Education / Career Background

- Bachelor of International Studies, Master's Degree in Public Administration
- Past Roles:
  - Senior Advisor at the Privy Council Office
  - Analyst at the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
  - Internships at the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority and the United Nations Development Programme

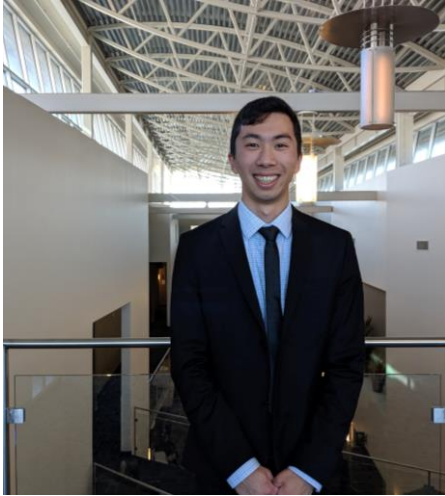
## Job Responsibilities

- Policy advice to Cabinet for the launch of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign
- Development and management of the COVID-19 proof of vaccination program

## What do you enjoy most about your department?

- Opportunities for innovative problem solving

## Marcus Wong (he/him)



Job Title:  
**Epidemiologist**

Department:  
**PHAC, Centre for  
Communicable  
Disease and  
Infection Control**

[LinkedIn](#)

### **Education / Career Background**

- MScPH from McGill University
- Alliance for Healthier Communities, McGill University Hospital Centre

### **Job Responsibilities**

- Survey data monitoring and cleaning
- Surveillance table preparation
- Creation of infographics, reports, presentations, executive summaries

### **What do you enjoy most about your department?**

- Team environment, opportunities to work on different tasks and experiences



# Thank You!

Q&A Period



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