

As one of Health Canada's funded Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient Centred Practice (IECP) programs, the overall goal of P-CITE was to improve the health of communities, families and individuals across Saskatchewan through services delivered by effective interprofessional health care teams.

P-CITE was created, coordinated and implemented among champions and partners from all health sectors including professions, health regions, health organizations, educational institutions and government.

"Saskatchewan has some advantages in fostering and promoting interprofessional education because people are quite predisposed to cooperating, to working in teams and relying on each other."

-key stakeholder

P-CITE increased patient-centred interprofessional team opportunities for health professional students in four theme areas:

- Children and youth mental health.
- Chronic diseases in middle-aged adults.
- Elders in transition from acute to community care.
- Health in Aboriginal communities.

Key Strength

P-CITE co-chairs, Dr. Liz Harrison (Associate Dean, School of Physical Therapy, College of Medicine) and Sheila Achilles (Director, Primary Health, Saskatoon Health Region), effectively promoted interprofessional education, engaged both practice and academic leaders in P-CITE and strengthened the province-wide approach.

Results

P-CITE funded 47 innovative interprofessional initiatives engaging students in academic institutions and community settings across Saskatchewan. These initiatives involved over 6,100 students from 29 health profession and health human service programs at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada and Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST).

Patient-centred interprofessional team experiences included:

- 4,145 classroom experiences.
- 1,421 problem-based learning experiences.
- 569 clinical experiences.

The participants engaged in these initiatives represented a broad range of communities such as health regions, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and government. Increased provincial capacity in interprofessional education is evident when we examine the numbers involved over the 2.5 years:

- 706 educators.
- 731 healthcare providers.
- 271 external stakeholders.
- 199 teachers/preceptors.

Faculty Development

Over 350 participants attended 20 faculty workshops or learning events supported by P-CITE to increase awareness, understanding and skills related to interprofessional education.

P-CITE funding supported the development of interprofessional education resources, tools and instruments that are being shared amongst faculty who educate pre-licensure students.

A sustainable, province-wide network of educators, clinicians and community partners committed to interprofessional learning and practice has been created.

P-CITE Key Messages

- P-CITE contributed to and advanced the knowledge base related to best practice approaches in interprofessional education.
- Shifting a culture of health science professional education to a more collaborative, team philosophy requires time, champions, successful demonstration projects and learner satisfaction.
- Institutional commitment and champions are required for successful implementation of interprofessional education projects.
- Embedding interprofessional educational experiences in the curricula is necessary to make meaningful, sustained changes in the learning.
- Student satisfaction and commitment to interprofessional collaborative practice are enhanced if they have opportunities to experience effective, team-based practice in clinical settings.
- Students have to be actively engaged in the learning environment, addressing a common client, issue or problem to facilitate learning from and about one another.
- Partnerships between educational and professional settings are essential for quality learning experiences.

Sharing Results

P-CITE outcomes and findings were electronically shared with community and academic partners to support and encourage future actions in interprofessional education.

The video, P-CITE: A Catalyst for Change, and a legacy website are currently being developed to disseminate information on the work of P-CITE.

The champions and leaders of interprofessional education in Saskatchewan will continue to encourage the use of the knowledge and resources gained during the P-CITE project.

P-CITE committee members are also actively involved in the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC) to share best practices in interprofessional education and collaborative practice.

In Summary

The program evaluation indicated that P-CITE was remarkably successful in achieving and surpassing its goals. P-CITE's funding, support and collaborative approach:

- Served as a catalyst for interprofessional education in Saskatchewan, especially for students and faculty.
- Increased awareness, support and opportunities for interprofessional education in Saskatchewan.
- Sparked an infusion of energy and collaborative efforts to advance interprofessional education.
- Facilitated an improvement in health services through interprofessional education.

“As a student involved with P-CITE, I have had the opportunity to . . . witness firsthand how P-CITE projects are transforming the ways in which health science students are learning across the province”.

Further Information and Resources

P-CITE's current website at www.pcite.ca will remain active until the legacy website is completed. Additional information on interprofessional education, resources and tools is also available at www.cihc.ca.