

THE CANADIAN STRATEGY FOR CANCER CONTROL (CSCC)



“To quantify the impact of the CSCC, the current version of the Life at Cancer Risk tool was used to model how coordination, cooperation and cancer risk control knowledge and expertise across Canada will save lives, reduce suffering and add economic value.”

— Source: http://209.217.127.72/csc/pdf/Strategy_Framework0405.pdf (page 16, point 3.5)

The Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (CSCC) was formed in June 2002 as part of a Canadian national cancer initiative. The CSCC is a collective effort by the major cancer policy makers and controllers across the country to enhance the operation of the current cancer control system so that it can fulfill the need for a balanced national cancer control strategy that provides resources where they are needed. To achieve this goal, the CSCC has identified the need for an integrated and systematic approach to cancer control – one that draws upon a collaborative effort between provincial stakeholders, health service providers and non-governmental organizations – to efficiently and optimally guide reduction of cancer risk across Canada

Scope of Engagement

The CSCC sought to work in partnership with RiskAnalytica to develop a strategy to enable Canadian politicians and professionals to initiate and lead a shift in the way cancer control is structured and implemented in Canada. The strategy relies upon knowledge formation, exchange, transfer and application enabling comparability, transparency and portability across Canada. The analytical tool used to formulate the strategy is based on the Life at Cancer Risk™ framework developed by RiskAnalytica. This framework incorporates, principles of physics, system theory and risk management; it is designed to measure and forecast the possible effects of cancer risk on a population and the way in which the effects of cancer can be mitigated through cancer control.

The following table identifies the challenges associated with cancer control in Canada and outlines the solutions offered through the Life at Cancer Risk™ framework adopted by the CSCC.

CSCC's Challenges	RiskAnalytica Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current cancer-control efforts in Canada are fragmented and lack consistency. • The Canadian cancer-control system is lacks qualified specialists who are the pressure to keep pace with the growing number of cancer cases. • Major stakeholders within the Canadian Health Care System seek a greater understanding of the nature and components of the cancer control resource problem. • Key cancer control professionals do not have an efficient way of developing or transferring objective cancer management knowledge and are unable to create a balanced national cancer control strategy. • The lack of understanding of the effectiveness the mechanisms for cancer prevention and control implemented at present with regard to reducing cancer related mortality, morbidity and incidence in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing analytical methodology to address the challenges faced by the CSCC. RiskAnalytica applied its Life at Cancer Risk™ framework to gain an understanding of the relationships between the key components of the cancer-control system in Canada. The methodology involved analysis of the historical data for such variables as incidence of various types of cancer, associated mortality and morbidity, population demographic and economic indicators. The results of this analysis were then applied to perform simulations of these variables into the future and determining risk and reward possibilities associated with implementing cancer control initiatives. • Linking risk-reward analysis to management strategy. The Life at Cancer Risk framework was further used to apply concepts of risk management to cancer control which allowed the cancer control problem to be quantified in management terms. • Setting priority areas for investment. Using the risk management approach to cancer control for the management and measurement purposes allowed identifying priority areas for cancer-control investments, establishing indicators for multidimensional performance evaluation across life and economic metrics and setting up a decision support system regulating distribution of scarce resources. • Supporting integration and coordination of effort. The results of the analysis based on the Life at Cancer Risk™ approach led to key stakeholders' and cancer control professionals' recognition of the importance of creating a system and processes that support the integration of priority areas for investment, including Federal, Provincial and regional cancer control efforts.

Conclusion

Looking at the cancer control problem from the managerial perspective led to an understanding that the increasing cost of health care and the higher volume of cancer cases threaten to place severe pressures on the sustainability of the health care system in Canada. The Life at Cancer Risk™ approach created the proper planning context for a dynamic management information platform that will improve CSCC's capacity to observe cancer problem in Canada, develop a sustainable management strategy and ensure greater integration, transparency and accountability across the system.