

## **Abstract: 2008 BC Injury Prevention Conference**

### **Abstract Title**

Making the Links Between Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention – An essential step in creating a healthier and safer Canada

### **Presenter/Author**

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### **Overview**

Over the past several years, the topics of both chronic disease and injury prevention have received greater recognition among the public, the health system, and policymakers. Across Canada there are a growing number of local, provincial, and national strategies and programs designed to address chronic disease and injury.

However, there remains little in the way of integration among those strategies targeting chronic disease and those aimed at addressing injury. Moreover, there is limited understanding among chronic disease and injury prevention practitioners regarding the linkages between these issues. For example, from a population perspective the risk factors for chronic disease and injury are virtually the same, while at the individual level, injuries can contribute to the development of a chronic illness and in turn, chronic disease conditions place people at greater risk of injury.

Most strategies designed to target chronic disease and injury have a number of common elements, including: leadership, capacity, partnership, surveillance, research, at risk populations (i.e. children, seniors, aboriginal peoples), and a settings-based approach. Additionally, there is a growing recognition that social factors such as poverty, poor literacy, and geography create health disparities. These health disparities contribute significantly to the burden of chronic disease and injury in Canada.

Despite all of these commonalities, very little is being done to integrate strategies and create a combined effort among chronic disease and injury prevention efforts. This is a strategic error.

### **Goal**

The goal of this presentation is to stimulate thought and discussion among the injury prevention community about how we can work more strategically to integrate our efforts to create a healthier and safer society.

### **Author's Bio**

Julian Young has worked for five years as the Provincial Coordinator of Injury Prevention and Control with the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection. In this position, he is responsible for providing strategic leadership to the ongoing development, implementation, and evaluation of the Nova Scotia Injury Prevention Strategy. He also teaches part-time in the School of Health Promotion, Dalhousie University.

Julian has a BA in Sociology and Certificate of Criminology from Saint Mary's University and Masters of Public Administration from Dalhousie University.