

Toronto Central Cancer Screening

Strategic Plan 2021-2023



Toronto Central
Regional Cancer Program
in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario

Introduction

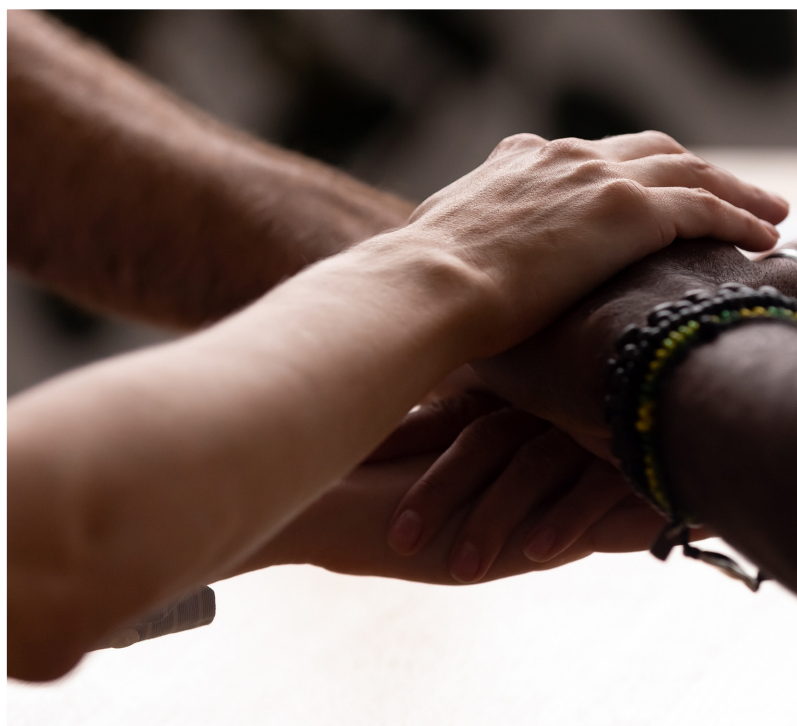
The Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program (TCRCP) Cancer Screening Team is pleased to present the Toronto Central Cancer Screening Strategic Plan for the years 2021 to 2023. Cancer screening is an important part of preventative healthcare as it can find cancer earlier and lead to better treatment and health outcomes. The TCRCP Cancer Screening Team provides local oversight for services related to breast, cervical, colorectal and lung cancer screening in the Toronto Central region and aims to strengthen Ontario's cancer screening programs by working in collaboration with Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and in alignment with the Ontario Cancer Plan 5.

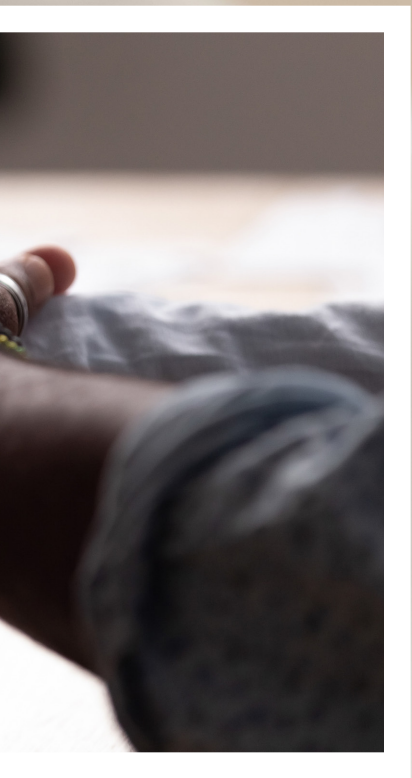
Since its inception, the TCRCP Cancer Screening Team has established meaningful and productive relationships with healthcare providers and community partners to decrease barriers and improve access and quality of cancer screening services. Working together with partners continues to be a central tenet of the strategy. Coordination and collaboration within our communities and healthcare system is important now more than ever given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our entire healthcare system, including cancer screening services. As our society emerges from the pandemic, our most important work is just beginning. Our first priority is focused on ensuring that those who missed their screening appointments are able to access these services again and that we decrease the backlog in screening services caused by the pandemic. In addition, we will continue to work towards decreasing barriers and improving equitable access to cancer screening.

The purpose of this strategy is to guide our team in the planning and delivery of projects, initiatives and operations. In addition, this strategy aims to provide our stakeholders with an understanding of our priorities and opportunities for collaboration. We are looking forward to accomplishing our strategic goals and objectives and we will continue to build on this strategy in the future. With this strategy, we hope to be able to reach new healthcare providers, continue to strengthen our existing relationships and develop new partnership opportunities.

Together we will improve the health and well-being of our communities through cancer prevention and early detection.

Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program,
Cancer Screening Team





Our Leadership

Regional Vice Presidents

Dr. Calvin Law

Regional Vice President, Ontario Health
(Cancer Care Ontario)
Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program (North)

Dr. Keith Stewart

Regional Vice President, Ontario Health
(Cancer Care Ontario)
Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program (South)

Regional Directors

Janice Stewart

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Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program (North)

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Director, Regional Cancer Program and Medical Affairs
Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program (South)

Cancer Screening Clinical Leads

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Regional Primary Care Lead

Dr. Supriya Kulkarni

Regional Breast Imaging Lead

Dr. Michael Shier

Regional Cervical Screening/Colposcopy Lead

Dr. Talia Zenlea

Regional Colorectal Screening/GI Endoscopy Lead

*Special thank you to Dr. Ed Kucharski who
contributed to the development of this strategy.*

Cancer Screening Team

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Grace Lee

Assessment and Quality Coordinator &
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Screening Program

Laura McDonald

Health Promotion Coordinator

Carolina Riano

Screening Performance Analyst

Strategic Plan Summary

Mission

Decrease barriers, increase participation and improve quality of cancer screening and diagnosis for breast, cervical, colorectal and lung cancer in the Toronto Central region by working collaboratively with local healthcare partners, communities and Ontario Health.

Vision

Improved health and well-being of our communities through cancer prevention and early detection.

Values

Strong Together (Collaboration)

Integrity Driven (Integrity)

Embracing Diversity (Diversity)

Quality Enablers (Quality)

Equitable Access (Equity)

Strategic Priorities

**Cancer Screening Backlog
Recovery and Stabilization
(COVID-19)**

**Healthcare Provider
Engagement, Education and
Awareness**

**Equitable Access to Cancer
Screening – Working with our
Communities**

**Quality Improvement in Cancer
Screening and Transitions to
Diagnosis**



PRIORITY

Cancer Screening Backlog Recovery and Stabilization (COVID-19)

Goal

To reduce the cancer screening backlog that has resulted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure cancer screening services are stabilized to pre-pandemic baselines

Objectives

- Work with partnering health care facilities and providers to understand capacity and health system constraints due to COVID-19
- Monitor regional cancer screening volumes and backlog data and report data to key health system stakeholders
- Work with community organizations and community members to understand COVID-19 related barriers to cancer screening
- Bring together key health system stakeholders to discuss local solutions to improve volumes beyond historical levels to address backlog
- Have strong communications processes to ensure health care providers and facilities receive timely information related to provincial and local updates
- Support dissemination of provincial awareness campaign materials and work with community partners to determine need for local and tailored public communications



PRIORITY

Healthcare Provider Engagement, Education and Awareness

Goal

To decrease provider level barriers to cancer screening and improve provider communication with their patients through healthcare provider education and engagement

Objectives

- Ensure providers have the knowledge, tools and resources they need to communicate effectively with patients, recommend cancer screening and coordinate any necessary follow-up tests
- Solicit feedback from providers and Regional Clinical Leads to understand knowledge gaps that need to be addressed
- Ensure strong communication and information dissemination channels for relevant healthcare providers in the region
- Work with the Ontario Cervical Screening Program to support the transition to HPV testing as the primary cervical screening modality through healthcare provider education and awareness activities



PRIORITY

Equitable Access to Cancer Screening – Working with our Communities

Goal

To work with our community partners to decrease barriers and improve access to cancer screening for under and never screened communities and individuals

Objectives

- Understand regional demographics and utilize demographic and cancer system data to support initiatives
- Work collaboratively with the Toronto Central Indigenous Cancer Program to ensure implementation of cancer screening priorities listed in the provincial First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous Cancer Strategy
- Work with community agencies and healthcare facilities to determine community needs and opportunities for collaboration
- Engage community members in health system planning and initiatives
- Understand the equity impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare access and cancer screening by utilizing provincial datasets
- Ensure cancer screening team members have learning opportunities and continue to build their understanding of equity and the role it plays in all streams of work



PRIORITY

Quality Improvement in Cancer Screening, Diagnosis and Transitions in Care

Goal

Raise awareness of provincial cancer system quality metrics among regional healthcare partners and work with providers and facilities to improve quality in cancer screening, diagnosis and transitions in care

Objectives

- Ensure partnering healthcare facilities understand their facility performance in relation to provincial performance targets and quality metrics and encourage quality improvement at the facility level
- Ensure healthcare providers understand their performance in relation to provincial performance targets and quality metrics and encourage quality improvement at the provider level
- Gather data to determine areas of improvement in transitions in care from abnormal screening test to follow-up and work with healthcare facilities and providers to improve wait times
- Maintain quality assurance for Ontario Breast Screening Program sites and ensure appropriate escalation processes for quality issues
- Ensure seamless transition from pilot phase to program for the Ontario Lung Cancer Screening Program in Toronto Central and monitor program quality





Contact Us

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For more information on cancer screening in the Toronto Central Region, or for opportunities to collaborate with us, please contact info@TCcancerscreening.ca



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