ASSIGNMENT

Report on Policy Diffusion and Readiness to Support Policy Development

BACKGROUND

The communities in which we live, work and play (e.g., provinces, territories, municipalities, neighbourhoods, schools, or workplaces) have a significant influence on our health. By encouraging the development of healthy policies in these locations, public health professionals can play a powerful role in building healthier environments for everyone.

In this assignment, you are tasked with understanding policy diffusion and readiness for change to support and encourage your jurisdiction to adopt a healthy public policy related to a prevalent policy approach already in place in several jurisdictions across Canada.

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POLICY DIFFUSION

Policy diffusion is a process by which public policies spread across jurisdictions, enabling decision makers to learn policy solutions from the experiences of others.

Please refer to the following articles on policy diffusion in Canada for more information:

- *Supporting the diffusion of healthy public policy in Canada: the Prevention Policies Directory*

- *Smoke-free spaces over place and time: a policy diffusion study of bylaw development in Alberta and Ontario*

- *A multiple case history and review of adoption, diffusion, implementation and impact of provincial daily physical activity policies in Canadian schools*

POLICY READINESS

Before you work with a community or organization to encourage policy change, it is important to understand the level of readiness for policy change. This will give you a better grasp of the community or organization's characteristics and will enable you to tailor your advocacy strategies to the place that you are working with. Please refer to the Policy Readiness Tool for more information about policy readiness.

ASSIGNMENT:

To complete this assignment, you will need to draw on concepts from the course, as well as:

1. The Prevention Policies Directory as a starting point to select a topic area and policy intervention that is present in a majority of jurisdictions (either provincial/territorial or municipal), but not all jurisdictions;

2. From this analysis of policy interventions on an issue, select a jurisdiction that is "lagging," wherein the policy intervention could be diffused and adopted in the future;

3. Use resources from the Policy Readiness Tool (e.g., assessment tool, strategies for late adopters) to understand the best ways to support your jurisdiction in adopting a new policy;

4. Develop a report detailing:

   > A brief overview of the policy issue and intervention selected, and a list of some of the Canadian jurisdictions which have already adopted such an approach,

   > An analysis of how the selected policy intervention may have diffused, using theories of policy diffusion and diffusion of innovations to support your analysis,

   > The "late adopter" jurisdiction you have selected to encourage policy development on the issue, including an analysis of why this jurisdiction may be a "late adopter," and some ways public health professionals could support this jurisdiction in adopting a new policy,

   > Conclusions.