



Nancy Porteous, Director General, Specialized Health Services Directorate, Health Canada, Government of Canada

Nancy leads the Specialized Health Services Directorate (SHSD) at Health Canada. SHSD helps protect and improve the health of federal public servants through Employee Assistance Services (EAS) and the Public Service Occupational Health Program (PSOHP).

EAS delivers the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to 90 federal departments and agencies, providing short-term psychological support to employees and their family members, as well as counselling following traumatic workplace incidents. In addition, it supports federal organizations with a wide range of workplace wellness and mental health services, including psycho-social emergency preparedness and response, customized training across the mental health continuum, coaching, workplace health assessments, informal conflict management services and Ombuds services. EAS also develops and delivers customized prevention interventions for departments, such as the Occupational and Critical Incident Stress Management program for Indigenous Services Canada nurses working in remote and northern communities and a new Decompression Program for the Health Portfolio to address the prolonged operational stress of pandemic response.

Prior to her current role, Nancy led the Public Health Agency of Canada's Centre for Health Promotion, responsible for a range of mental health promotion and prevention programming including family violence prevention, suicide prevention, seniors mental health promotion, and early childhood development initiatives such as Head Start in urban and northern communities.

Currently an evaluation and performance measurement "user", Nancy spent many years "doing" evaluation and performance measurement in private sector consulting as well as within government at the local and federal levels. Nancy is a Credentialed Evaluator, former national President of the Canadian Evaluation Society, and a Fellow of the Canadian Evaluation Society.