

Foreword

The uniqueness of the Canadian Heart Health Database which is now available is twofold. First, the Database drove the implementation of the 1988 Promoting Heart Health in Canada policy framework. Second, the results of the 10 provincial heart health surveys documented for the first time in Canada the widespread prevalence of cardiovascular disease risk and led to clear recognition of the need for a public health approach to deal with the epidemic.

The Canadian Heart Health Initiative — encompassing policy, research and action — may be seen as a model in the implementation of a national population health strategy. The wealth of data, and the policy reports compiled on the enclosed Heart Health in Canada CD-ROM are precious tools for researchers, practitioners and decision-makers to plan, design and evaluate preventive interventions in heart health.

The partnership between Health Canada and the ten provincial departments of health, as well as the collaboration of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and the 10 provincial heart and stroke foundations have led to numerous coalitions and have inspired the efforts of many the individuals who have made possible the accomplishments to date.

These accomplishments to date augur well for the strengthening of health promotion and disease prevention capacity in the years ahead.