

# Barbados NCD Commission – Governance, Management and Conflict of Interest

NCD Advocacy, Accountability, and Conflict of Interest  
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## DECLARATION OF PORT-OF-SPAIN: UNITING TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC NCDs

- **Fully convinced** that the burdens of NCDs can be reduced by comprehensive and integrated preventive and control strategies at the individual, family, community, national and regional levels and through collaborative programmes, **partnerships and policies supported by governments, private sectors, NGOs and our other social, regional and international partners**
- **Declare** that we strongly encourage the establishment of **National Commissions on NCDs or analogous bodies to plan and coordinate** the comprehensive prevention and control of chronic NCDs

# The Commission's mandate



- **Advise Minister of Health** on NCD policies and legislation
- Broker **involvement of all sectors** in program implementation
- Assist in **resource mobilization** to facilitate implementation of programs
- Recommend relevant **research**
- **Promote collaborations and partnerships**
- Monitor regional and international **trends**
- Facilitate commissioning of **audits /evaluation** of NCD programs
- Recommend to Minister of Health framework that **encourages and promotes behaviour change** to prevent NCDs

# Governance and management

- Members selected by MOH, appointed by Cabinet of Barbados for a predetermined period of time
- Meetings held monthly
- Meetings minuted, signed and become official record of Ministry of Health
- Decisions taken by consensus or majority vote
- Composition of Commission

# Activities of the NCD Commission

- “Barbados Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2015-2019
- Barbados Childhood Obesity Plan
- National Nutrition Intervention and Improvement Programme
- Hosting of a meeting with faith based organizations (FBOs)
- Theatre in Education: pilot project to introduce the concept of health education through drama
- Technical and administrative oversight and guidance of the Barbados National Registry

# Activities of the NCD Commission - Risk Factor Reduction

- Legislation banning smoking in public places and ban on sale of tobacco products to minors
- Draft legislation to adopt the CARICOM Standard on Packaging and Labelling of Tobacco Products
- Global Youth Tobacco Survey
- Supported Ministry of Transport and Works on the introduction of breathalyser testing
- National Task Force on Physical Activity and Exercise, “get women moving” - train community leaders to plan and conduct community based, low cost physical activity programmes
- Increase in taxes on tobacco products, 2013 and 10% tax placed on sugar sweetened beverages, 2015

# Community Activities resulting from NCD Commission's work

- BARP "Pinch of Salt" Programme
- BARP Better life Gardening Project
- Health fair – cooking demonstrations for better health  
– Ratafarian Group – UN Small grants fund
- Cassava Bread
- Spin off entrepreneurship - cottage industries – sugar  
cake vendors

# Conflicting situations

- Challenge for Ministry of Education representative – issue of marketing and promotion of junk food and SSBs in schools
- Members of Commission viewed as representing themselves or organisations/businesses and not the sector
- At none of the meetings is there note made of a declared COI or action taken on same
- Challenges from the beverage industry



# A Civil society report on National NCD Commissions– Governance and Management

- COI between sectors of NCD Commissions should be addressed in a transparent manner informed by the recognised and international norms and practices
- Private sector is critical for economic growth
- COI: Socio-economic – private sector critical for regional economic growth; International trade agreements; public private sector partnerships

# COI - guidelines

- CSOs face many challenges – financial
- Influence of Donor priorities and specific interests may limit availability of funds
- Guidelines should provide a framework for engagement with all stakeholders
- Industries must be recognized as not only the problem but also the solution in the context of business competitiveness, corporate bottom lines, national economic growth, employment, productivity,