

Federal government

Theme	Recommendation	Status
Food borne outbreak review	27. The federal government should establish an independent post-event review process made up of a pre-identified team of experts not involved in the emergency. Following all future national food borne emergencies, this team should conduct an in-depth review and report to the government. The report should be made public.	
Legislative Reform	43. To simplify and modernize federal legislation and regulations which significantly affect food safety, the Government of Canada should mandate a lead agency to conduct a comprehensive review and recommend improvements in a timely manner, taking into account the amendments or additions required to enforce, where applicable, the recommendations included in this report (e.g. the requirement to disclose any threat to food safety as covered by recommendations 6 and 20).	
Governance	<p>45. Concurrent with the review (of the CFIA – see Rec. #44), the federal government should consider replacing the current requirement for an Advisory Board with a Board of Management which, subject to powers to be retained by the Minister including all decisions related to policy, legislative, regulatory and emergency matters, should oversee the organization and operational management of the Agency, and advise the Minister on policy matters.</p> <p>At a minimum, the federal government should consider the immediate appointment of the Advisory Board established under subsection 10 (1) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act. The Board should be specifically directed to advise the Minister on issues relevant to the vision, accountability, mandate, and public perception of the Agency and risk management.</p>	

	<p>46. The federal government should endorse the need for continuity and vision at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency by making efforts to ensure, wherever practical, that the 5-year mandate given to the President under section 5 of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act is fulfilled.</p>	
	<p>53. Concurrent with the review (of PHAC – see Rec. # 52), the federal government should consider permanently assigning day-to-day operational management responsibilities of the PHAC to an associate deputy head (i.e. a Chief Operating Officer equivalent to a second-in-command) to allow the Chief Public Health Officer to focus on his executive duties and responsibilities as the lead health professional of the Government of Canada in relation to public health and to ensure continuity of management.</p> <p>At a minimum the day-to-day operational management responsibilities of the Chief Public Health Officer of the Public Health Agency of Canada during a national foodborne emergency, should be temporarily assigned to an acting deputy head for the PHAC until the end of the emergency.</p>	
Co-ordination	<p>54. The Clerk of the Privy Council should appoint an independent expert to chair a special committee of the deputy ministers responsible for Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The chair should report to the Clerk directly. This committee should provide recommendations to improve the ways the organizations work together in their roles in food safety. It should also oversee the development of our proposal to simplify and modernize federal legislation and regulations.</p> <p>The first tasks of this committee should be to reduce overlaps and address gaps among the organizations, improve communication and the sharing of information, resolve existing issues preventing harmonization of roles, and provide a report on these matters within six months.</p>	

	<p>55. Considering the serious implications of foodborne illnesses, governments should create a distinct federal, provincial and territorial committee reporting regularly to the federal Minister of Health. The Minister should share the progress of this committee with his provincial and territorial ministerial counterparts regularly.</p> <p>This committee should enable national preparedness for foodborne outbreaks. One of its first tasks should be to develop and implement programs alerting vulnerable populations to the risks of listeriosis and identifying recommended sanitation and prevention practices.</p> <p>The committee should be composed of officials from the Health and Agriculture Ministries across Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.</p>	
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Report back	<p>57. Following its receipt and review of this report, the government should commit to reporting back to Canadians, within two years, on the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report together with an assessment of their impact on improving Canada's food inspection and food safety emergency response systems.</p>	