

# Backgrounder

## Health Region Transformation Across Canada

In recent years, Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) have been undergoing transformation across the country, as each jurisdiction considers the most appropriate and optimal governance and administrative structures. We have seen these changes occurring in every province through amalgamations and service redesign. Saskatchewan faces the same challenges and is one of the last provinces in the country to review health region governance and performance.

The regionalization table below provides a brief summary of the changing health region landscape across the country.

REGIONALIZATION ACROSS CANADA			
Province	2016 Population* (000)	Current Number of RHAs	Governance Evolution
British Columbia	4,751.6	5 Regional+ 1 Provincial Health Authority	2002: From 11 to 5 RHAs 1997: Est. 11 RHAs.
Alberta	4,252.9	1 Provincial Health Service	2008: From 9 to 1 RHA 2003: From 17 to 9 RHAs + 2 Provincial Health Boards and 1 Commission 1997: Est. 17 RHAs
Saskatchewan	1,150.6	12 RHAs (plus Athabasca Health Authority)	2002: From 32 to 12 RHAs 1992: Est. 32 RHAs
Manitoba	1,318.1	5 RHAs	2002: From 12 to 5 1997: Est. 12 (two later merged to create 11 RHAs)
Ontario	13,983.0	14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) created in 2006	2006: Est. 14 LHINs
Quebec	8,326.1	18 RHAs	1992: Est. 18 RHAs (includes Social Service agencies)
New Brunswick	756.8	2 RHAs + 1 Provincial Agency	2008: From 8 to 2 RHAs 1992: Est. 8 RHAs
Nova Scotia	949.5	1 Provincial Health Service + the Izaak Walton Killam (IWK) Hospital	2015: From 9 to 1 RHA 2001: From 4 to 9 RHAs 1996: Est. 36 RHAs
Newfoundland & Labrador	530.1	4 RHAs	2005: Est. 4 RHAs
Prince Edward Island	148.6	1 Provincial Health Service	2010: Ministry devolved to 1 RHA 2005: From 5 RHAs to Ministry 1993: Est. 5 RHAs

\* Statistics Canada 2016 Population by province and territory