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Leigh Chapman, RN PhD
Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)
Health Canada



Dr. Leigh Chapman is committed to advancing the nursing profession and ensuring equitable access to quality care for people in Canada. As CNO for Canada, she provides strategic advice to Health Canada to address pan-Canadian nursing priorities and represents the Federal Government at domestic and international forums. She also plays a convening role by engaging and collaborating with the nursing community to identify nursing workforce issues and innovative solutions to shared health system challenges. She is dedicated to making nursing a profession of choice in Canada to support our publicly funded health system.

Over the course of her career, Leigh has gained a deep understanding of nursing through her work in both frontline and clinical leadership capacities. Her professional experience spans various settings and includes clinical care, education, research, administration, policy, and advocacy. Prior to becoming the CNO for Canada, Leigh was the inaugural Director of Clinical Services with Inner City Health Associates in Toronto. Her work focused on strategic, operational, and clinical oversight of nursing services for people experiencing homelessness who were affected by the

COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to her role as CNO for Canada, Leigh continues to practice as registered nurse (RN) by providing frontline care and harm reduction services at a community-based consumption and treatment site in Toronto. Leigh developed a passion for working with people experiencing homelessness and people who use drugs following the overdose death of her brother in 2015.

Leigh received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Clinical Health Services (Nursing) from McMaster University. In 2019, she completed her PhD at the University of Toronto's Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing where her research focused on the competency assessment of clinicians practicing in academic hospital settings. Conducting this research provided Leigh with insight into the different ways in which the regulation of health professionals intersects with organizational priorities in acute care settings. Leigh has been involved in the lifesaving work of the Toronto Overdose Prevention Society, has been a director on the board of the Harm Reduction Nurses Association, and was recently profiled as one of Canada's top 10 health care innovators by Maclean's magazine.