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**PHAC Vaccine Confidence Webinar Series**

# **Understanding Canada's Vaccine Injury Support Program**

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# QUICK NOTES

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- 1 This webinar is being recorded and a recording will be made available on CANVax.ca and on CPHA's YouTube channel. Slides will also be made available.
- 2 Please complete our post-webinar survey.
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# Understanding Canada's Vaccine Injury Support Program

Webinar for health care professionals – June 1, 2022



# Presenters

## Speakers

- Stéphanie Parisien, Acting Director, Vaccine Injury Support Program, Public Health Agency of Canada
- Edward Maier, Project Lead and Senior Case Manager, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton Consulting Inc.
- Dr. Jennifer Crichton, MD, CCFP, MBA, MSc, Department of Family Medicine, University of Ottawa

## Moderator

- Stephanie Elliott, MPH, CPH, Vaccine Confidence Division, Public Health Agency of Canada

## Disclosures

- Stéphanie Parisien:
  - Nothing to declare
- Edward Maier:
  - Nothing to declare
- Dr. Jennifer Crichton:
  - Receives consultant fees from Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton Consulting Inc. for the work associated with the Vaccine Injury Support Program
- Stephanie Elliott:
  - Nothing to declare

# Objectives

At the end of this webinar, health care professionals will be able to:

- 1) Explain the Vaccine Injury Support Program (VISP) eligibility criteria and processes
- 2) Support individuals who may have suffered a vaccine injury in submitting their claim
- 3) Identify their role in supporting the claim process, e.g. retrieval of medical records

# What is a Vaccine Injury Support Program?

## No Fault

Financial support is provided regardless of who is responsible or possibly at fault (e.g., the claimant, manufacturer or health professional administering the vaccine)

## Non-Adversarial

Does not require the claimant to seek legal representation or solicit expert medical review (beyond their attending physician's report)

## Fair, Timely and Equitable

Provides fair, timely and equitable financial compensation to individuals who experience serious vaccine injuries

## Driving factors for the Pan-Canadian VISP

### Addresses long-standing gap

Strengthens Canada's immunization system and provides equitable access to financial support

### Demonstrates leadership

Canada joins the international community in offering a national vaccine injury compensation program

### Shows fairness and reciprocity

People who experience a serious and permanent vaccine injury while performing a public good (i.e. being immunized) should be supported in a fair and timely manner, regardless of responsibility or possible fault

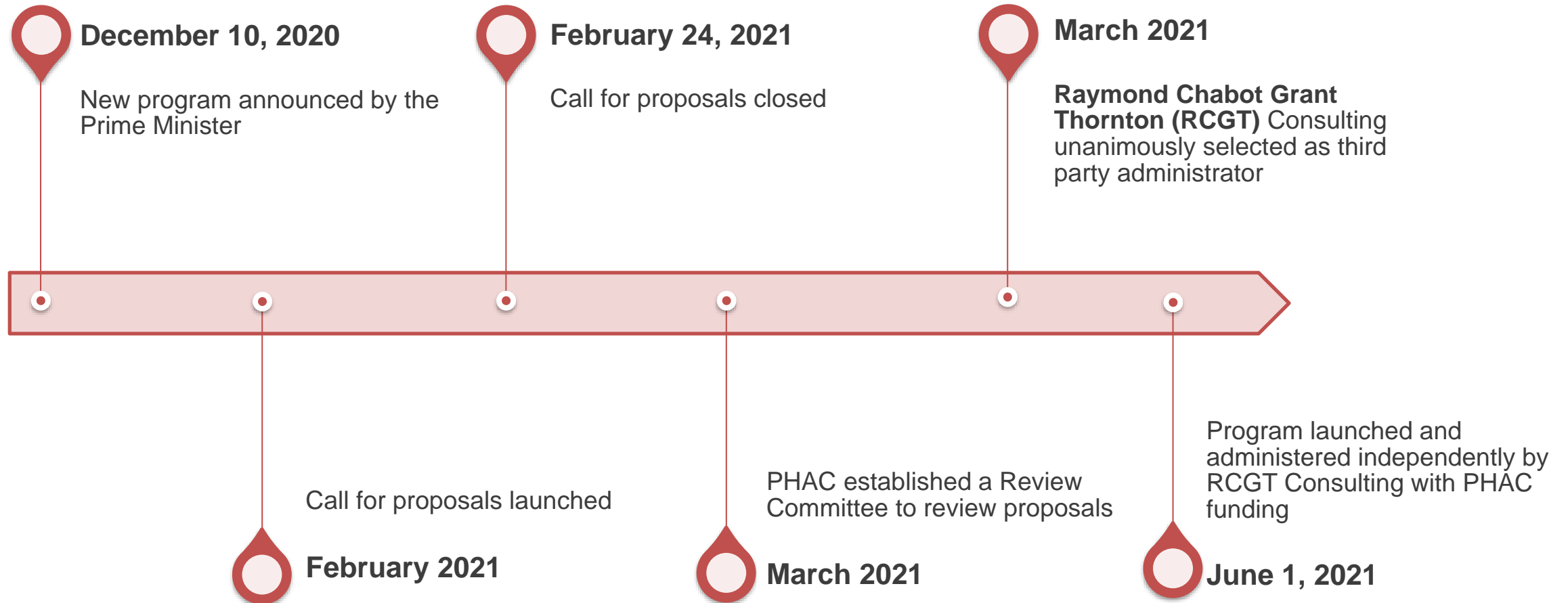


## Pan-Canadian VISP

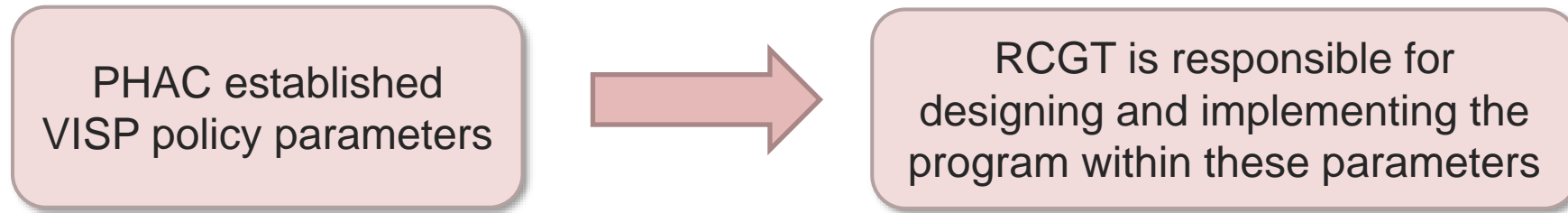
The pan-Canadian Vaccine Injury Support Program (VISP) ensures that all people in Canada who have experienced a serious and permanent injury as a result of receiving a Health Canada authorized vaccine, administered in Canada on or after December 8, 2020, have fair and timely access to financial support.

Quebec is continuing to administer its provincial program with funding from PHAC for individuals vaccinated in that province.

# Roadmap to the Pan-Canadian VISP



## Policy parameters



- The VISIP provides financial support to individuals who:
  - Experience a **serious** and **permanent** injury from a Health Canada-authorized vaccine administered in Canada, on or after December 8, 2020
- Individuals have three years after the date of vaccination, date of death or date when an injury first becomes apparent to submit a claim
- Aligns with Québec's Vaccine Injury Compensation (VIC) program
- Based on the World Health Organization's accepted practices on the establishment of causality

## Third-Party Responsibilities

RCGT is responsible for designing and implementing:



PHAC has no involvement in program delivery, including assessing claims or appeals

# Canada's Vaccine Injury Support Program

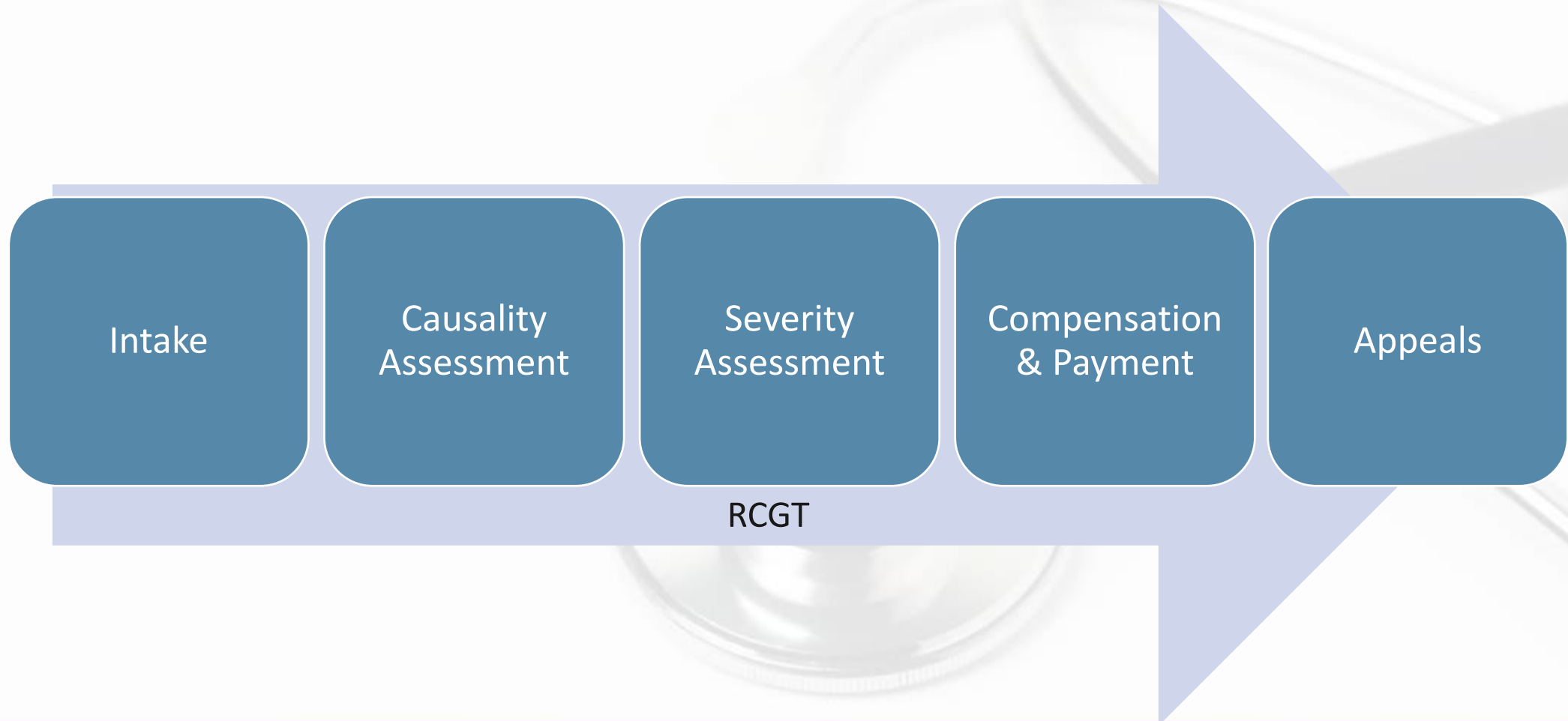


**Vaccine Injury  
Support Program**

Edward Maier, Senior Case Manager and Project Lead, RCGT  
Dr. Jennifer Crichton, MD, CCFP, MBA, MSc

# VISP Responsibilities and Process

PHAC has no involvement in program delivery, including assessing claims or appeals



# Role of Health Professionals

Understand  
Eligibility

Recommend  
Program

Medical  
Assessment  
Form

Continue to  
Provide Care

Respond to  
Requests



# Eligibility Criteria



## Authorized Vaccine

Any person receiving a Health Canada authorized vaccine.



## Time Frame

Claims can be filed within three years after the date of vaccination, date of death or date when an injury first becomes apparent.



## Injury Reported

Injury reported to health care provider.



## Eligibility Date

Date of vaccination was on or after December 8, 2020.



## Administered in Canada\*

The vaccine was administered in Canada.

[\\*Exceptions apply.](#)



## Serious and Permanent

The injury is serious and permanent or has resulted in death.

[\\*Vaccine Injury Support Program Exceptions](#)



**Vaccine Injury  
Support Program**



# Serious and Permanent

“A serious and permanent injury is defined as a severe, life-threatening or life-altering injury that may require in-person hospitalization, or a prolongation of existing hospitalization, and results in persistent or significant disability or incapacity, or where the outcome is a congenital malformation or death.” -WHO

- This definition was developed by the WHO
- Intended to be permissive and open-ended
- Used by Quebec’s (QC) Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

# Causality Assessment using WHO Model

“Causality assessment usually will not prove or disprove an association between an event and the immunization. It is meant to assist in determining the level of certainty of such an association. A definite causal association or absence of association often cannot be established for an individual event.” -WHO

- Medical Review Board composed of three (3) independent physicians (and additional specialists as required)
- 2/3 majority decision (same as QC)
- Injured party remains anonymous throughout the process
- No patient representative (different than QC)



# Injury Severity Assessment

- In order to compensate a claimant, the level of injury must be determined
- Medical Review Board conducts a **severity assessment** using medical records
  - Based on the Quebec Automobile Insurance Act (SAAQ)
  - Determines a **percentage of injury**
- Examples of injuries submitted since June 1, 2021:

VITT

Guillain-  
Barré  
Syndrome

Anaphylaxis

Myocarditis



# Challenges with Case Assessments

- COVID-19 vaccine post-market literature is continuously evolving
- Decisions are made on the best available evidence available at the time



**Serious and Permanent Injuries?**



# Financial Support

- Financial support will be provided when the **majority** of the Medical Review Board has determined:
  - Balance of probabilities between the vaccine and injury (causality assessment)
  - The injury qualifies as severe and permanent (injury severity assessment)
- Payment following decision will generally cover:

## Lump Sum Injury Indemnity

- Injury indemnity
- Death and funeral benefits

## Recurring

- Lost income
- Medical expenses

## Eligible Expenses

- Home adaptation
- Medical devices
- Transportation
- Personal support worker



# Overview of Claims

- Number of Claims
  - In the past year, 99% of claims were related to Covid-19 vaccines
  - There have been many different injuries claimed and each is assessed individually
- Timeline
  - Case by case
  - Medical records collection

[Program Statistics | Vaccine Injury Support Program](#)

# What can you do?

- As members of the immunization community, RCGT would like to engage you with the following goals in mind:
  - **Feedback:** Eliciting constructive feedback regarding VISP processes
  - **Increase Awareness:** Ensuring equitable access to VISP for all Canadians
  - **Best Evidence:** Collaboration between vaccine experts and VISP to ensure sharing of consensus on novel/emerging vaccine associated injuries
  - **Medical Record Retrieval:** We offer both physical and digital reception of data
  - **Recruiting Physicians:** Neurologists, Physiatrists, Cardiologists and Thrombosis Specialists

For feedback or further information: [info@vaccineinjurysupport.ca](mailto:info@vaccineinjurysupport.ca)  
or visit our website [vaccineinjurysupport.ca](http://vaccineinjurysupport.ca)



Questions?



**Vaccine Injury  
Support Program**

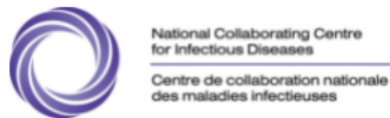


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COVID-19 for health professionals: Training and webinars

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/training.html#a2>



National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases

[nccid.ca/phac-webinars-on-covid-19-vaccines](https://nccid.ca/phac-webinars-on-covid-19-vaccines)



Canadian Vaccination Evidence Resource and Exchange Centre

<https://canvax.ca/public-health-agency-canada-phac-vaccine-confidence-webinar-series>



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# Thank you for joining us!

Copies of the presentation and video will be made available on [canvax.ca](http://canvax.ca)