Food Allergy Canada: Overview and parallels with Bra Mat för Alla

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A comparison of social systems, largely funded through general taxation

Canada

Health (1)
- Better nurse:population; hospital beds:population
- Universal coverage, but limited in scope; co-payments for all Rx, ambulance
- Fee-for-service MD

Schools*
- Food not provided

Sweden

Health (1)
- Better MD:population; wait times for ED care, primary care & specialist care
- Universal coverage, co-payments for adults
- Salaried MD

Schools
- Food provided (2)

1. Esmail, 2013
2. Skolmat Sverige, 2012
Food Allergy: Prevalence in Canada and Sweden

- Self-reported food allergy
  - Canada: 7.5%, including almost 500,000 children (1)
  - Sweden: 7% of children and adolescents (2)

- Peanut allergy
  - Canada: 1.1% (2.4% in children, 0.7% in adults) (1)
  - Sweden: 3% in adolescents (3)

1. Soller et al. JACI In Practice. 2015.
3. Feldman et al. Allergy. 2018
Need for national societies to highlight and address impact of food allergy (and hypersensitivity)

Food Allergy Canada

- "A society that is safer for people living with food allergies and the risk of anaphylaxis through well informed, supportive, and responsive communities"

Bra Mat för Alla

- "Sweden has global leadership in providing equitable healthcare, safe food and reliable knowledge for people with food allergy or other hypersensitivity to food, offering quality of life equal to that offered to people without food hypersensitivity"
Both organisations listened to their stakeholders:

**Food Allergy Canada**
- **Education**
  - Medically sound, current knowledge accessible to all
- **Advocacy in dining out, food service**
  - Sabrina’s Law
- **Advocacy in food labelling**
  - Drove legislation for plain language ingredient lists

**Bra Mat för Alla**
- **From molecule to man**
  - Improve treatment, prevention and diagnostics
- **From farm to fork**
  - Good, nutritious and safe food
- **From paper to practice**
  - Improved quality of life through knowledge translation
Both organisations have many partners across sectors

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May 2015: Name changed from Anaphylaxis Canada to Food Allergy Canada
Food Allergy Canada: Strategies to address key areas

1. Build awareness and to educate the audience and the communities in which they live

2. Increase support for teens and young adults

3. Increase food safety
Strategy 1: Awareness and education

Awareness and education resources

- Food Allergy Canada Blog
- Anaphylaxis
- Elementary School Allergy Awareness Challenge
- Adults with Allergies
- Managing Food Allergies and Anaphylaxis
- Newly diagnosed
- Parents
- Youth
- Adults
- Public

Allergy Information Service

Allergy Aware.ca

The Ultimate Guidebook for Teens with Food Allergies

whyriskit.ca

J Protudjer

10/07/2018
Early Infant Feeding Guidelines
FAQs

This new Addendum Guidelines for the Prevention of Peanut Allergy in the U.S. were released in January 2017. This report from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) represents a dramatic shift from previous advice to parents and caregivers regarding the introduction of peanut in a child’s diet.

The Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) and Food Allergy Canada have compiled the list of FAQs from the most common questions parents asked about these guidelines. These questions are answered by Canadian Pediatric Allergists Dr. Jean-M. Allam and Dr. Kyle J. Hildebrand. We hope you find these FAQs helpful and informative.

As always, we advise parents to speak with their physician if they have any concerns.
Strategy 2: Increase support for teens and young adults

Tragedy at Queen’s University, Sept’15
18-year-old, 1st year student with known food allergies
- Unguarded moment: left auto-injectors in dorm room
- Succumbed to fatal anaphylactic reaction during first few weeks at university
- A wake-up call about youth at risk and emergency preparedness on campuses

Supporting youth in transition: Post-secondary reference guide

- Developed by Food Allergy Canada in collaboration with 75+ stakeholders
- March 2018 launch
Strategy 3: Increase food safety

Food service advocacy

- Top priority for audience
- Safe management a shared priority
- Inconsistent food service knowledge and practice

- 2018 focus: Develop voluntary guidelines with industry representatives
Increase safe food options

- Precautionary labelling and “free from” claims are voluntary and lack consistency
- Partnered with Université Laval, AllerGen NCE hosted stakeholder discussions (Nov 2017)
- Food Allergy Canada’s role is to galvanise key stakeholders across sectors to promote change
Conclusion

- Many similarities between healthcare systems in Canada and Sweden; and, Food Allergy Canada and Bra Mat för Alla

- Major differences are
  - Food Allergy Canada has longer history
  - Bra Mat för Alla has wider scope

- Given many similarities, Food Allergy Canada is likely to be a good resource for Bra Mat för Alla
  - Programme development
  - Knowledge translation
  - Public engagement
Tack!  Thank you!  Merci!

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