Dietary Reference Intakes: Harmonized nutrient standards for Canada and the U.S.

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In 1994, Canadian and US governments initiated a collaborative approach to the development of a broader set of dietary reference values, known as the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs).

Rationale for a common set of values
- Science underlying nutrient requirements knows no borders
- Expanded base of specialized scientific expertise
- Unified nutrient reference standards allows for harmonization of trade-related matters, such as nutrition labelling and food composition

Decisions to commission DRI review made jointly

A series of six nutrient-focused reports were released between 1997 through 2005; DRIs for all macronutrients as well as 35 vitamins and minerals.
“Next round” of DRIs

• Important that values be kept up to date, but no formal process established in DRI model

• Joint Canada-US working group developed structured, proactive process with input from both DRI Steering Committees

• Web-based nominations from both inside and outside government – all have the same requirements
2. Preliminary evaluation of received nominations by Federal DRI Committees

Have all nomination requirements been met?

3. Evaluation of nominated nutrients by Federal DRI Committees

Is significant, new, and relevant scientific information available? Would a new review help address an important public health concern? Are there unresolved methodological issues that would impede a DRI review of this nutrient(s)?

4. Funding Decision (US & Canada)

Does nutrient(s) have priority relative to other nominated nutrients? Is there available funding?

ACTION
DRI review process initiated

No Action
Potential outcomes of process

Highest priority nutrient(s) identified

None move forward
(No funding, data or interest. Unresolved methodological issue)

Workshop
Advancing the DRI framework, closing methodological gaps (e.g. chronic disease endpoints)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) review
- Systematic review to determine whether there is sufficient evidence for DRI review.

DRI review
Overall process for developing DRIs

SOURCE: Guiding Principles for Developing Dietary Reference Intakes Based on Chronic Disease (public release slides)
Where are we now?

• The Options Report, which provided a foundation for developing guiding principles for basing DRIs on chronic disease endpoints.

• The Development of Guiding Principles for the Inclusion of Chronic Disease Endpoints in Future Dietary Reference Intakes
  – Released: August 3, 2017

• DRI nomination process
  – Nutrient nominations from April 29, 2013 to July 31, 2013
  – In total 26 nominations were received for 16 nutrients

• Sodium/potassium DRI review
  – Initiated Fall 2017
  – Will be the first review to use the new Guiding Principles