



KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Taking the first step toward developing a National Food Allergy Strategy (NFASt)

Dr. Susan Elliott, a University of Waterloo professor and co-leader of AllerGen's Patients, Policy and Public Health enabling platform, is leading an AllerGen initiative to catalyze the development of a National Food Allergy Strategy for Canada.

On June 23, 2015, Dr. Elliott hosted a national stakeholder consultation meeting with partners from community and patient groups, government, and healthcare to assess the appetite and capacity for developing a national strategy.

Twenty-two pan-Canadian organizations, including Allergy/Asthma Information Association; Anaphylaxis Canada; Dietitians of Canada; Health Canada; McDonalds Canada; Pfizer Canada; the Quebec Food Allergy Association; the Sandbox Project; and Sanofi Canada, as well as Public Health Ontario and other provincial organizations, attended and contributed to the discussion.

Presentations by AllerGen researchers Drs Ann Clarke (University of Calgary), Jean Marshall (Dalhousie University), Susan Waserman (McMaster University) and Susan Elliott (University of Waterloo) provided an overview of the Canadian food allergy landscape in terms of prevalence, perceptions and experiences, pathophysiology, and gaps in diagnosis, treatment and management of food allergy. Michael Abbott (Food Allergy & Intolerance Assessment Section, Health Canada) provided a snapshot of advances in food allergen labelling in Canada.

"This stakeholder meeting was an important first step in developing a national strategy that maximizes choice and minimizes risk for food allergic Canadians," says Dr. Elliott.

Information on the development of a National Food Allergy Strategy and presentations from the June 2015 stakeholder meeting can be viewed on the AllerGen [website](#).