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(2015) *Leveraging the international HTA database for the Canadian audience*. In: CADTH Symposium, 12-14 Apr 2015, TCU Place.

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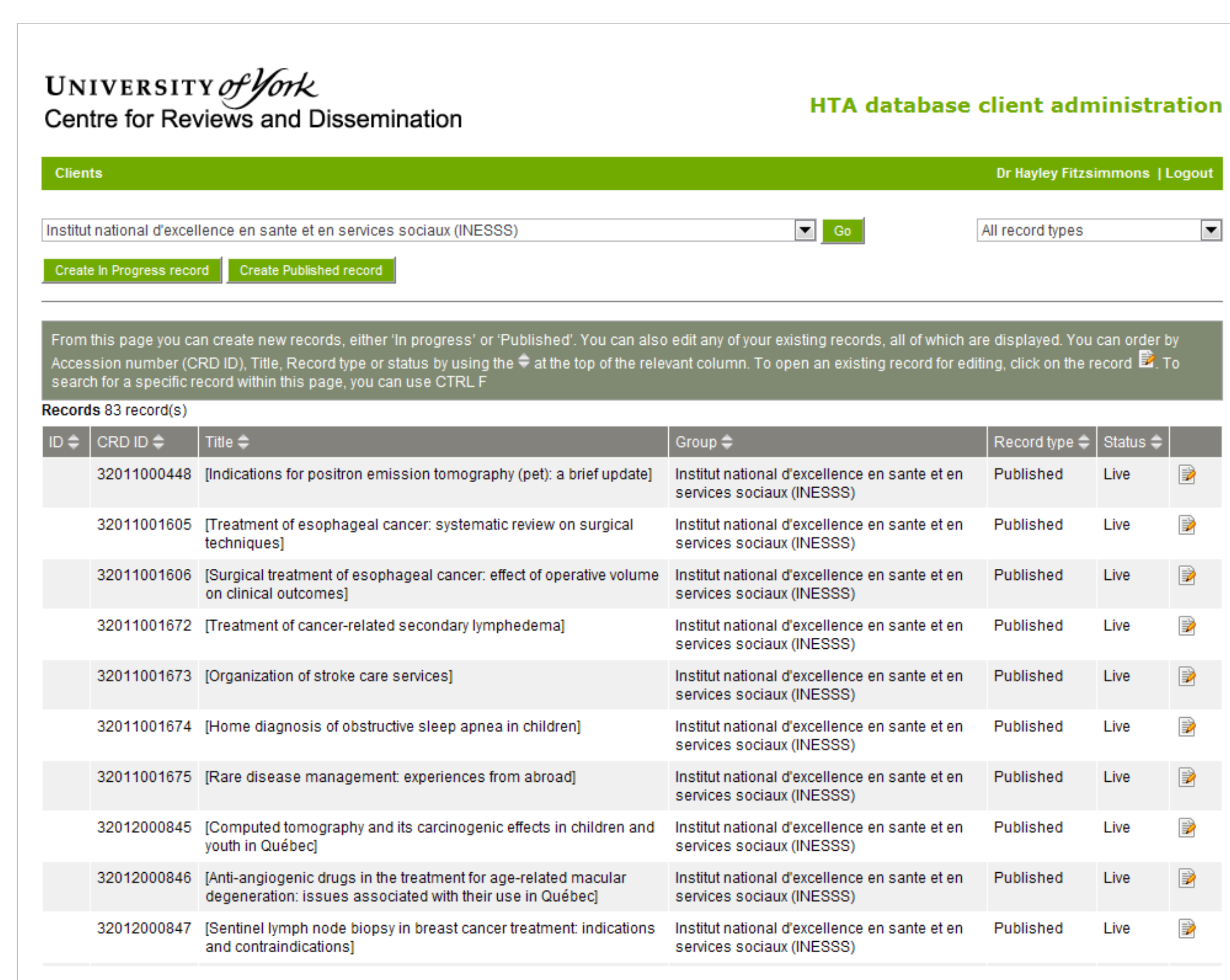
# LEVERAGING THE INTERNATIONAL HTA DATABASE FOR THE CANADIAN AUDIENCE

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## BACKGROUND

Decision-makers are looking for health technology assessments (HTAs) produced in their relevant health system's context. In recognition of the benefits of having a single HTA repository, the Pan-Canadian Health Technology Assessment Collaborative Steering Committee established the Pan-Canadian HTA Repository Working Group to develop a dedicated Canadian HTA repository. In 2013, the pan-Canadian working group chose a joint solution with the producers of the existing HTA database. Funded by the United Kingdom's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), the existing HTA database provides a comprehensive listing of over 14,500 HTAs from around the world. Consolidating Canadian HTA records into the HTA database would provide one-stop access to Canadian and international HTA reports.

**FIGURE 1: NEW DATA ENTRY INTERFACE, HTA DATABASE**



## OBJECTIVES

The Pan-Canadian HTA Repository Working Group and NIHR/CRD aimed to develop a client administration interface, bulk uploading of records, and a bilingual Canadian-user search interface.

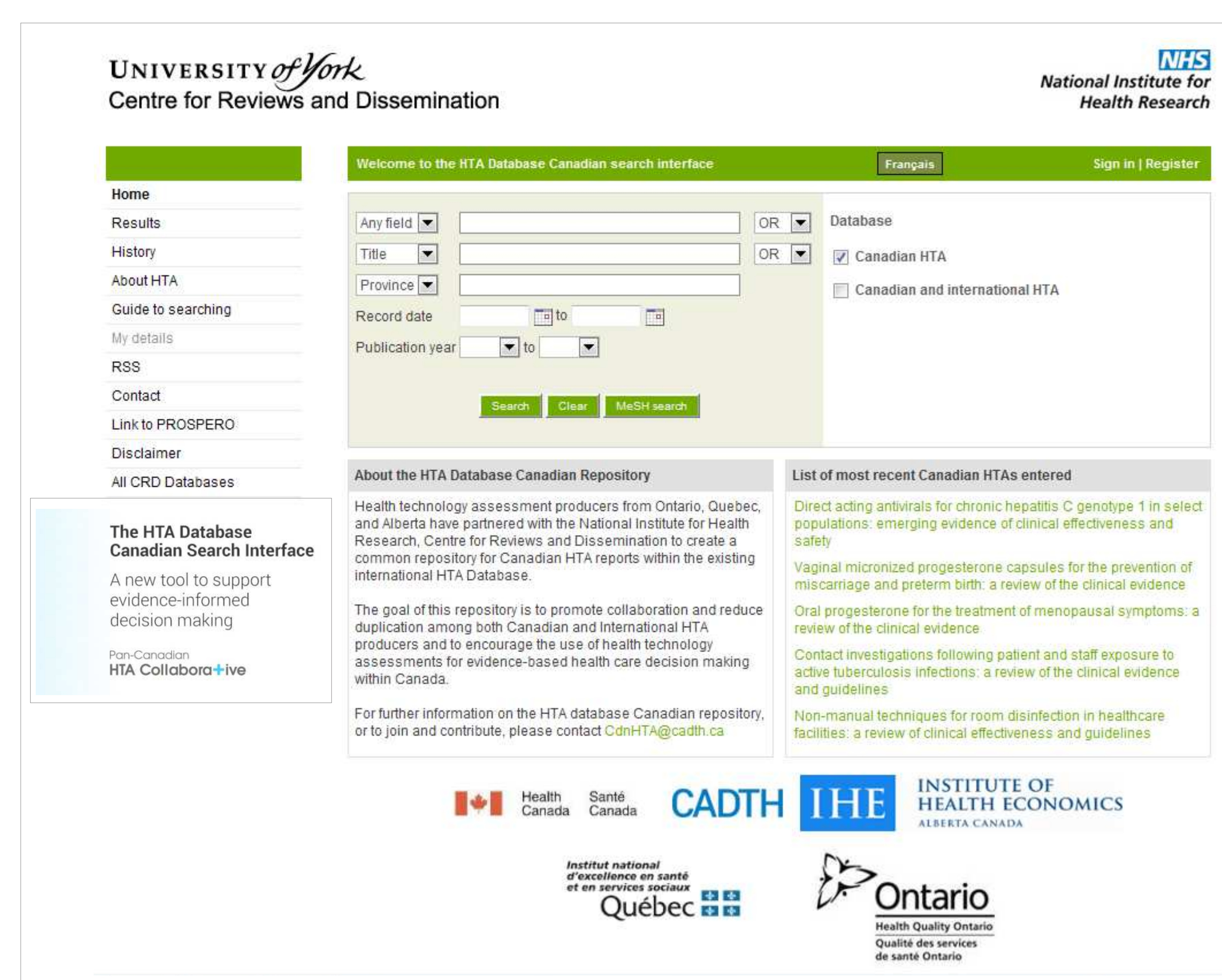
## METHODS

A remote data entry client interface was developed and tested, using reports from four Canadian HTA agencies. Pilot records were mapped and tagged for automated loading. A bilingual Canadian search interface to the HTA database was designed and tested by the Pan-Canadian HTA Repository Working Group.

## RESULTS

The client administration and automated uploading of Canadian records for pilot sites has been successfully completed and rolled out. The HTA database currently contains HTAs from more than 13 Canadian HTA

**FIGURE 2: HTA DATABASE CANADIAN SEARCH INTERFACE**



producers, with plans for more Canadian participation in the next two years. The Canadian search interface for the HTA database ([www.crd.york.ac.uk/PanHTA](http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PanHTA)) is being rolled out to health care decision-makers and HTA producers across Canada. It includes a bilingual search interface, bilingual MeSH subject headings, a "Province" field, and retrieval defaults to Canadian content.

## CONCLUSIONS

The new Canadian search interface for the HTA database encourages and facilitates the use of HTAs for evidence-based, health care decision-making within Canada, while promoting collaboration among Canadian and international HTA producers.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Hayley Fitzsimmons is an Information Services Manager at CADTH in Ottawa.

Reiner Banken is the Adviser to the CEO, Alliances and Networks, at the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS) in Quebec.

Alison Booth is a Research Fellow at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) at the University of York in the United Kingdom and manages the HTA database.

*For additional resources, visit [www.cadth.ca/en/resources/hta-database](http://www.cadth.ca/en/resources/hta-database) or contact us at [CdnHTA@cadth.ca](mailto:CdnHTA@cadth.ca) to learn how to get involved.*