



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

(2023-2025)

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Dedicated investments in women’s health research are transformative for improving women’s health outcomes and can generate positive social and economic returns for women, their families, and communities.¹ Despite growing attention to women’s health and women’s health research over the past forty years and policies promoting inclusion in research and sex and gender-analysis, women’s health research remains underfundedⁱⁱ and sex and gender are not optimally applied to generate new knowledgeⁱⁱⁱ to benefit the health of women, trans and non-binary people.¹

The Partnership for Women’s Health Research Canada (PWHR) was created to coordinate and catalyze national efforts to promote women’s health research and its use. It is a collaboration between the [Women’s Health Research Institute](#) (BC), the [Women and Children’s Health Research Institute](#) (Alberta), [Women’s College Research Institute at Women’s College Hospital](#) (Ontario), [IWK Health](#) (Maritimes) and the [Women’s Health Research Cluster](#).

PWHR’s partner institutions bring together more than 775 women’s health researchers who address health issues across the lifespan and come from diverse disciplinary perspectives. Annually, our researchers mentor more than 1300 trainees, ranging from undergraduates to postdoctoral and clinical fellows. PWHR’s partner institutions are closely integrated with Canada’s leading women’s hospitals, fostering research that responds to the priorities of patients and healthcare providers and promoting research use in care delivery.

PWHR is committed to ongoing learning and practicing humility to establish mutually respectful relationships and to advance research that values the lived experiences, knowledge systems and priorities of diverse women, trans and non-binary people, particularly those who have been systemically and historically excluded in health care and health science career trajectories.

The PWHR Strategic Framework (2023-2025) is a roadmap to advance our common vision and goals.



¹ The Partnership for Women’s Health Research Canada uses the term women to refer to all people who identify as women. We use trans and non-binary as umbrella terms to refer to people with a wide range of gender identities that are different from the gender they were assigned at birth.

VISION

Better health for all women, trans and non-binary people through research equity, excellence, and inclusion.

MISSION

Enable knowledge creation and mobilization to benefit the health of women, trans and non-binary people across the lifespan.

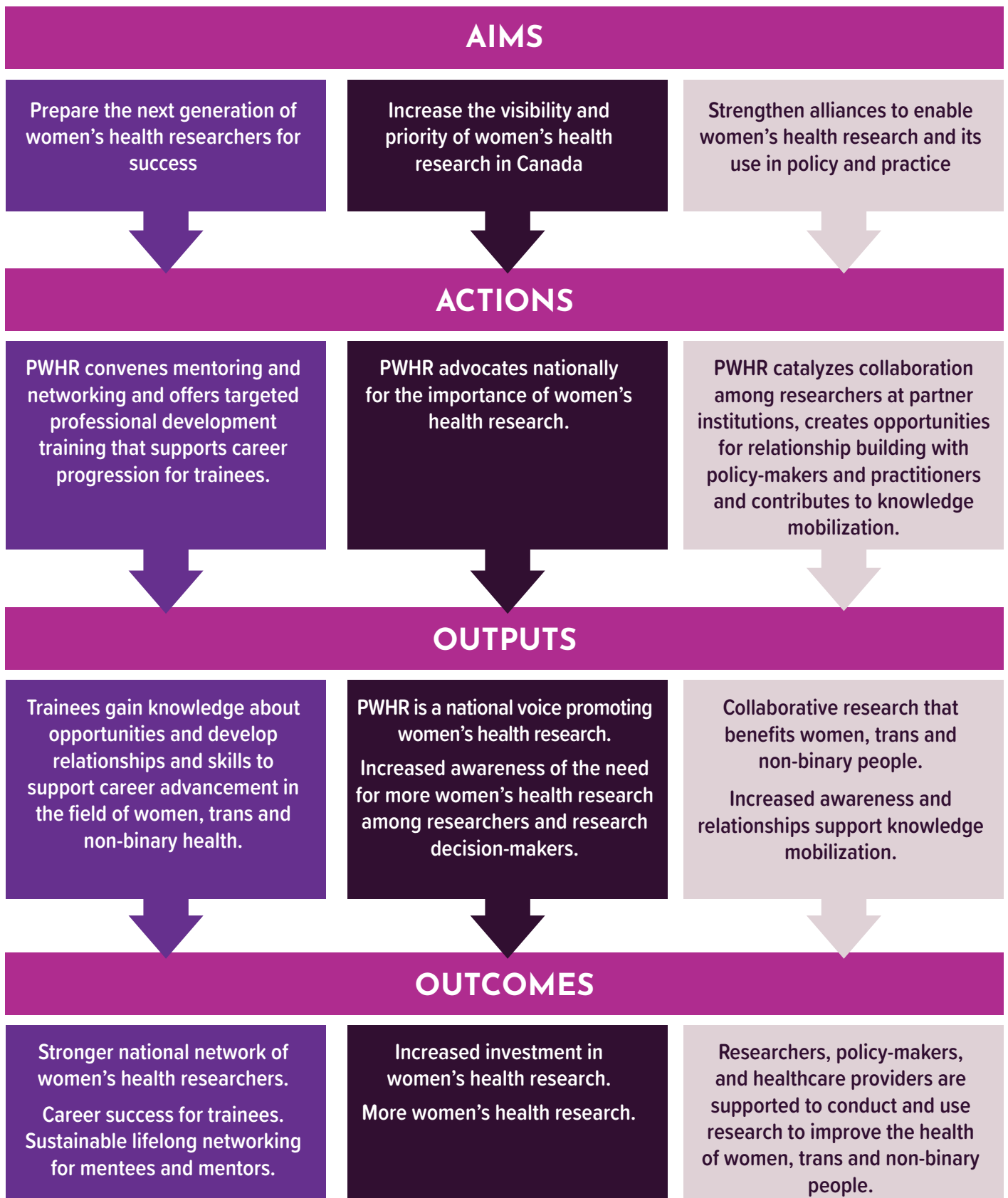
GOALS

- Leverage our resources to further national research and promote evidence-informed practice and policy to benefit women, trans and non-binary people from coast-to-coast-to-coast and around the world.
- Be a leading voice and champion for research that includes biological and socio-cultural sex and gender-based analyses and considers how these factors intersect with other social categorizations.
- Increase training and mentorship opportunities for trainees and researchers at all career stages.
- Support networking of health researchers.
- Mobilize knowledge to improve health behaviours and medical practices, cultural safety, and policies that affect health.
- Advocate for increased funding.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2023-2025 AT A GLANCE

Between 2023 and 2025, PWHR's partner institutions will collaborate and leverage our resources to advance three mutually reinforcing aims that contribute to our vision and mission. Achievement of outputs will lay the foundation for outcomes over the medium term.



Baird, MD., et al. The WHAM Report: The case to fund women's health research. An economic and societal impact analysis. https://thewhamreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/TheWHAMReport_crosscutting-compressed.pdf

ⁱⁱIn 2020, the National Institutes of Health in the United States dedicated about 11% and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research 7% of overall research funding to women's health research. National Institutes of Health, Office of Research on Women's Health. 2022. Executive Summary: Perspectives on advancing NIH research to inform and improve the health of women. https://orwh.od.nih.gov/sites/orwh/files/docs/ORWH_WHC_ExecutiveSummary508.pdf; Stranges, TN. et al. 2022. Are we moving the dial? Sex- and gender-based analysis trends in Canadian health research funding from 2009-2020. bioRxiv preprint <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.11.30.518613v2.full> and Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Reports to Parliament. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/22978.html>. CIHR Funding Analytics. Investments in Women's Health. 2021 (unpublished document).

ⁱⁱⁱRechlin, RK. et al. 2022. An analysis of neuroscience and psychiatry papers published from 2009 and 2019 outlines opportunities for increasing discovery of sex differences. Nature Communications 13 (2137) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-29903-3>; Tannenbaum, C. et al. 2017. Sex and gender considerations in Canadian clinical practice guidelines: a systematic review. CMAJ Open <https://doi.org/10.9778/cmajo.20160051>; Welch, V. et al. 2017. Reporting of sex and gender in randomized controlled trials in Canada: a cross sectional methods study. Research Integrity and Peer Review (2017) 2:15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41073-017-0039-6>.