

# Call for Expression of Interest

## Alliance Membership

### INTRODUCTION

The [Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance](#), (“Alliance”) is a network of experts and stakeholders that develop and disseminate evidence-informed strategies to transform clinical practice and enhance collaborative action on women’s cardiovascular health in Canada. The Alliance is powered by the Canadian Women's Heart Health Center at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute and funded by the University of Ottawa Heart Institute Foundation.

#### Vision

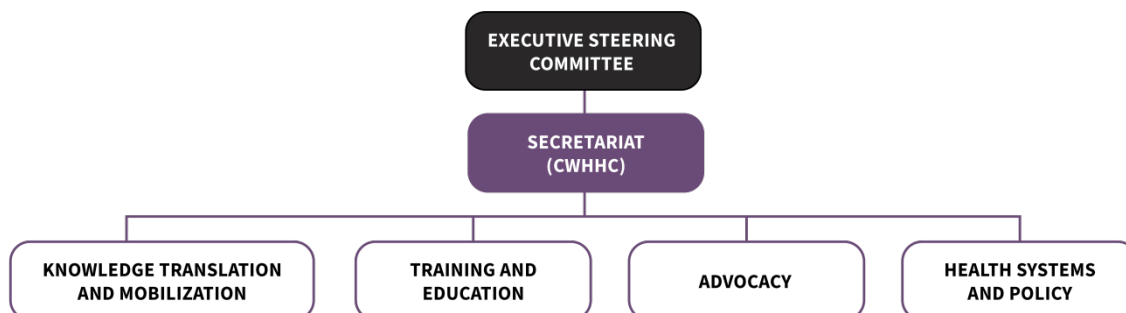
To improve women’s cardiovascular health across the lifespan.

#### Mission

Clinicians, scientists, patients and decision makers work collaboratively to implement evidence, to transform clinical practice, and to impact public policy related to women’s cardiovascular health.

### Governance Structure

The Alliance governance structure is comprised of an Executive Steering Committee (ESC), the Secretariat body to provide operational and coordination support through the Canada Women’s Heart Health Centre (CWHHC), and four Working Groups.



The **Executive Steering Committee** is responsible for the following:

- Guide the Alliance vision and strategy
- Lead decision-making in Alliance strategic direction and activities
- Establish shared measurement practices
- Build public will for women’s cardiovascular health
- Advance policy to enable action for women’s cardiovascular health
- Grow the membership of the Alliance



The **Secretariat** is responsible for the following:

- Facilitate the growth and development of the Alliance into a national leader in the promotion of partnership, collaboration, dissemination and implementation of best practices in women's cardiovascular health across Canada;
- Provide project management, operational and communications support;
- Facilitate knowledge brokering;
- Build membership engagement;
- Maintain records and coordinate stakeholders.

### The Role of the Working Groups:

1. The **Advocacy** group supports advocates as they enhance awareness about women's cardiovascular health in their communities, and to stimulate new interest in the field of women's cardiovascular health.
2. The **Education and Training** group works to enhance education and training about specific cardiovascular issues affecting women. Projects will target various audiences such as the general public, physicians, nurses, students and allied health staff in a phased approach.
3. The **Health Systems and Policy** group explores cost-effective strategies to improve and monitor women's cardiovascular health, and promote these strategies based on findings.
4. The **Knowledge Translation and Mobilization** group focuses on translating existing and new knowledge about cardiovascular health and disease in women; and creating sex-specific guidelines, tools and programs focused on improving outcomes for Canadian women.

### Working Group Chairs:

The Chairs from each of the four Working Groups also sit on the Executive Steering Committee for the Alliance. The Chair role is a 2-year renewable term.

Each Working Group Chair is responsible for the following:

- Set the tone for cooperation to ensure the goals set out by the working groups and Executive Steering Committee are achieved;
- Ensure that key goals are delivered upon and that the necessary resources are in place to support this work;
- Review and collaborate on strategic planning findings and outcomes;
- Provide direction and advice on recommendations;
- Identify additional members of the working groups;
- Lead the strategic planning process and deliver outcomes;
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholder groups.



## WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

### **Purpose and Accountabilities**

The members in each of the four Working Groups will contribute their knowledge, expertise, and provide in-kind contribution to advance the goals, objectives and activities as outlined by the Alliance. The Working Group will operate as a team, draw on the skills and talents of each member, and work together towards the Alliance's goals to ensure overall success.

### **Qualifications**

- Has a track record for being able to get things done;
- Is passionate about advancing cardiovascular care for women;
- Former experience or strong interest in working collaboratively on committees or working groups;
- Has tact, judgment, discretion and good communication skills;
- Has sufficient time to devote to the Working Group and to project outputs (refer to Time Commitment section below for further details)
- Can contribute their expertise from a patient, clinical, epidemiological, academic and/or research perspective

### **Time Commitment**

- The Working Group Membership will be for a minimum term of one year and is ongoing.
- Members will be expected to attend **6-8 virtual meetings** per year lasting up to 1.5hrs in duration. Members will be invited to participate in an annual face-to-face meeting, which will be concurrent with a major relevant ongoing professional meeting (e.g. Canadian Cardiovascular Congress) or the CWHH Summit.
- Members will be expected to attend the CWHH Summit (next scheduled date: TBD), where face-to-face Working Group meetings will be held biannually.
- Expect a time commitment of at least average of 4-8 hours per month to attend meetings, review documents, respond to emails and complete assigned tasks.
- The monthly time commitment may vary based on the forecasted activities.

### **Membership Composition**

The Working Groups will consist of at least 10 members, with 2 or more of those members being patient partners or people with lived experience. Recruitment of additional *ad hoc* members will be considered as projects arise and it is deemed there is need for additional expertise.



## Membership Considerations

In order to ensure a balanced membership composition which incorporates a broad range of perspectives, additional considerations such as specific expertise, diversity and geographic representation may be sought. Please note that all meetings will be conducted in English.

## Intake Process

An open call/expression of interest for the Working Groups will be held as well as on demand on-boarding based on project output demands and interest.

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, please complete this [online application](#). If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Comber, Knowledge Translation Lead at [cwhhc@ottawaheart.ca](mailto:cwhhc@ottawaheart.ca).

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Opportunities include:

- Network with others by attending the [Canadian Women's Heart Health Summit](#);
- Participate in [Wear Red Canada](#) on February 13;
- Join our [newsletter](#) to stay informed and up to date;
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and visit our [website](#).

Thank you for interest in women's cardiovascular health in all its diverse facets, your recognition of the importance of embedding prevention and evidence into clinical practice, and your commitment to improving the health of our patients, families, and our communities.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly at [tcoutinho@ottawaheart.ca](mailto:tcoutinho@ottawaheart.ca).

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