



# CANADIAN WOMEN'S **HEART HEALTH** ALLIANCE

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## **KICKOFF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

APRIL 4, 2018 | 10:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.  
WESTIN OTTAWA HOTEL

COORDINATED BY



**YOURHEART.CA**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview .....	1
A Common Agenda .....	1
Key Areas of Focus .....	1
Knowledge Translation and Mobilization .....	1
Training and Education .....	1
Advocacy .....	2
Health Systems and Policy .....	2
Alliance Priorities and Timelines .....	2
Governance Structure .....	3
Final Considerations and Next Steps .....	4

## OVERVIEW

On April 4, 2018 the Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre (CWHHC) hosted a full day planning and network development meeting to establish the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance. The kickoff meeting leveraged the outputs of the 2016 Summit Call to Action meeting, key informant interviews, and pre-event survey responses. The event objectives included:

### Objectives:

- To validate a common agenda for a Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance
- To determine the key activities in each of the focus areas
- To identify short, medium and long-term outcomes for the Alliance
- To confirm the governance structure for the Alliance

## A COMMON AGENDA

### Vision of the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance:

To improve women's cardiovascular health across the lifespan.

### Mission of the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance:

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.

## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Consultations with stakeholders from across Canada helped identify the four main areas of focus for the Alliance: Knowledge Translation and Mobilization, Training and Education, Advocacy, and Health Systems and Policy. Participants emphasized the importance of this area to the overall success of the Alliance.

### KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AND MOBILIZATION

#### Identified activities and outputs:

- Perform a needs assessment/environmental scan to determine current activities inventory
- Develop new "feminized" risk screening tools that include female-centric risk factors across the lifespan
- Develop a new model of care for women, including a Community of Practice (CoP), practice guidelines, data variables and an education series for health care practitioners
- Support public awareness campaigns for women's cardiovascular disease in Canada
- Develop a policy, consensus statement and toolkit on women's cardiovascular health

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

#### Identified activities and outputs:

- Convene a multi-partner roundtable to develop strategies to enhance education, training, and dissemination
- Implement women's heart health summit every two years (next in spring, 2020)



## ADVOCACY

### Identified activities and outputs:

- Expand community supports to reach more women across Canada, particularly those in high-risk, low-income, remote, and Indigenous communities
- Develop advocacy toolkit
- Lead women's social movement (i.e., women's march)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICY

### Identified activities and outputs:

- Explore ways to link clinical databases and share data to make better use of existing research findings
- Promote awareness and adoption of evidence-based women's heart cardiovascular programs and activities

## ALLIANCE PRIORITIES AND TIMELINES

### 30-60-90 DAYS

- Clarify Alliance governance structure
- Establish a plan for increasing awareness and advocacy
- Establish an education and training working group

### 1-3 YEARS

- Create women-specific guidelines (new + integrate into existing)
- Develop and implement a knowledge translation strategy
- Identify and secure sustainable funding
- Develop a curriculum plan for women's cardiovascular health for each of the relevant professions

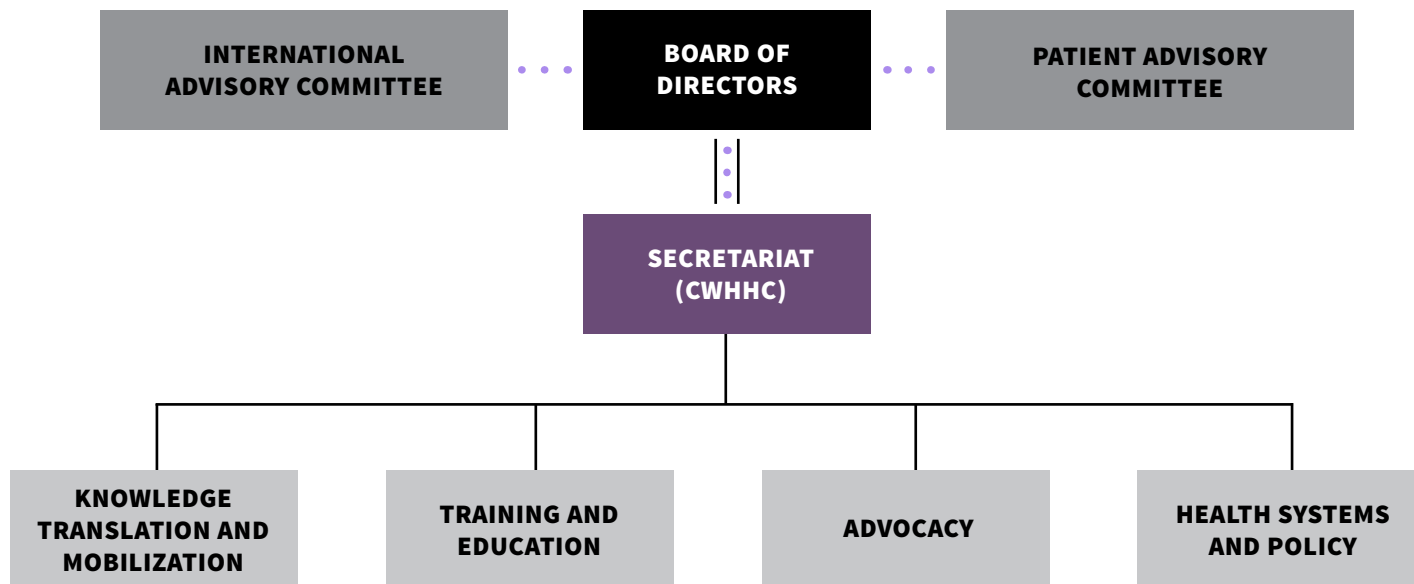
### 5 YEARS

- Establish as a National Centre of Excellence
- Improve outcomes observed among Canadian women
- Increase networking of women's heart clinics using best practices
- Increase attention to most vulnerable populations
- Incorporate sex and gender into personalized health



## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Based on the key informant interviews, pre-event survey and alliance members' considerations and discussion, here is the identified governance model.



### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the strategic lead for the Alliance. The Board will report on working group goals, objectives and activities, and seek opportunities for pan-Alliance collaboration. The Board is specifically accountable for providing input and guidance on:

- Guide the Alliance vision and strategy
- 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

### International Advisory Committee

The International Advisory Committee will provide the international expertise of women's cardiovascular health issues related to knowledge translation and mobilization, training and education, advocacy and health systems and policy.

### Patient Advisory Committee

The Patient Advisory Committee will provide the patient perspective of women's cardiovascular health issues including activities related to knowledge translation and mobilization, training and education, advocacy and health systems and policy.

### Secretariat – Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre

The Secretariat is the operational lead of the Alliance. It is responsible for completing the following activities:

- Support aligned Alliance activities
- Establish shared measurement practices
- Mobilize funding to support Alliance and Alliance activities
- Overall management of website (yourheart.ca) as resource and information 'hub'

## Working Groups

### Knowledge Translation and Mobilization

The Knowledge Translation and Mobilization working group will partner with end-users and decision makers to put research into practice and implement, assess and improve different interventions.

### Training and Education

The Training and Education working group will enhance education, training and dissemination about sex and gender on cardiovascular disease.

### Advocacy

The Advocacy working group will support women's heart health advocates to increase knowledge and awareness within their communities and networks.

### Health Systems and Policy

The Healthy Systems and Policy working group will promote and implement cost-effective strategies to improve women's cardiovascular health, including surveillance and monitoring.

A photograph of two women with curly hair sitting at a wooden table, laughing heartily. The woman on the left is wearing a white blazer over a dark top. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blazer. There is a white coffee cup on the table in the foreground. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a library or office setting with bookshelves.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance is being established to improve women's cardiovascular health across the lifespan. Patients, clinicians, researchers and decision makers will work collaboratively to move knowledge to action, to transform clinical practice, and impact public policy. Over the next three months, the participant-generated criteria will be used to select a Chair for each of the working groups and action-planning meetings will take place to leverage the input from the kickoff event. Ongoing coordination for this initiative will be provided by the Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**  
**CWVHC@OTTAWAHEART.CA**  
**OR VISIT YOURHEART.CA**