



WOMEN'S HEALTH
COLLECTIVE CANADA

IMPACT REPORT 2025 – 2026

A VITALLY IMPORTANT YEAR

FROM COLLECTIVE MOMENTUM TO ONE
NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



INTRODUCTION

LEADING A NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

For Women's Health Collective Canada (WHCC), 2025–2026 was our most dynamic year yet, marked by significant growth in our reach, partnerships and fundraising. Through national gatherings, public education campaigns and advocacy on Parliament Hill, we brought greater visibility to the evidence, investment and action needed to improve women's health in Canada.

We launched the Vital Talks Seminar Series and hosted the first Vitally Important: National Women's Health Summit, creating new opportunities for researchers, healthcare leaders, funders, policymakers and advocates to exchange knowledge and advance shared priorities. Our national campaigns connected millions of Canadians with credible information about women's health and its implications for individuals, families, workplaces, communities and the economy.

We also mobilized greater investment in women's health research and knowledge sharing, supporting work that is building the evidence needed to improve care and close persistent health gaps. Our partners deepened their commitment through increased funding and efforts to drive change within their organizations and sectors.

Together, these milestones strengthened WHCC's role as a national platform that funds research, connects leaders, brings evidence to Canadians and advocates for systems-level change. This report captures what collective action made possible in 2025–2026 and how our members, partners and supporters are helping build a stronger national movement for women's health.



A YEAR OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Making women's health a national priority starts with investing in research that closes critical sex and gender gaps, translating those findings into public knowledge, and advocating for the policies and partnerships that can transform evidence into better care.

With the help of our partners, supporters, researchers, and community of advocates, WHCC is bringing these pieces together to lead a national movement for women's health.

EACH MILESTONE FUELS THE NEXT, CREATING MOMENTUM THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION.

01

Increased our fundraising by 129% through philanthropic gifts and sponsorships to accelerate women's health research nationally.

02

Convened hundreds of people from across sectors through national events that empowered women with trusted knowledge.

03

Shared critical evidence with millions of Canadians about the impacts of the women's health gap, and the actions we can all take to improve health outcomes for women.

04

Advanced national advocacy efforts by standing alongside partners on Parliament Hill to champion the urgent need to prioritize women's health in Canada.

This report demonstrates how collective action is driving innovation, advancing better care, and helping build a future where women can live healthier lives without being held back by preventable or treatable health conditions.

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**WOMEN'S HEALTH
IS VITALLY
IMPORTANT TO
ALL OF US.**

Amy Flood

Executive Director, WHCC

LETTER FROM WHCC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Women's health is vitally important to all of us. While women make up 51% of Canada's population, 47% of the workforce, and are expected to own nearly half of the country's wealth by 2030, they spend 24% of their lives in poorer health than men.

Recent research by the McKinsey Health Institute has brought national attention to the women's health gap, revealing that closing it could unlock up to \$37 billion in Canada's GDP. While the evidence is gaining recognition now, it only confirms what women have known and experienced for years in a health system that was never designed with them in mind.

Women in every life stage carry invisible burdens. A teenage girl misses school due to pelvic pain that's dismissed as normal, a mother delays addressing her own health needs while caring for her family, and a midlife woman at the height of her career steps away from the workforce because of unmanaged menopause symptoms.

Women's Health Collective Canada was created to seize one of the greatest opportunities of our generation: to advance women's health through a united national movement. One that has the potential to create lasting systems change, strengthen Canada's economy, and give women the ability to live their lives fully.

Over the past year, our Collective has advanced women's health from multiple angles. While funding research for women remains a core priority, our impact also extends to mobilizing evidence to inform women and empower them with knowledge. As well as convening individuals from all different backgrounds who share the drive to build a future of healthier women. Together, we launched new educational programs, advanced critical research, sparked national conversations, and built a movement that's advancing women's health as a national priority.

This progress is made possible by the power of collaboration and dedication. Researchers, healthcare providers, policymakers, corporate leaders, philanthropists, advocates, and people with lived experience are all joining our movement to establish women's health as vitally important to everyone. I am proud of what we've accomplished together, and inspired by the opportunities right in front of us.

This year's report reflects more than impact, it's a movement that's growing stronger than ever before, and is far from finished. This is our opportunity to transform women's health in Canada today, and for generations to come.

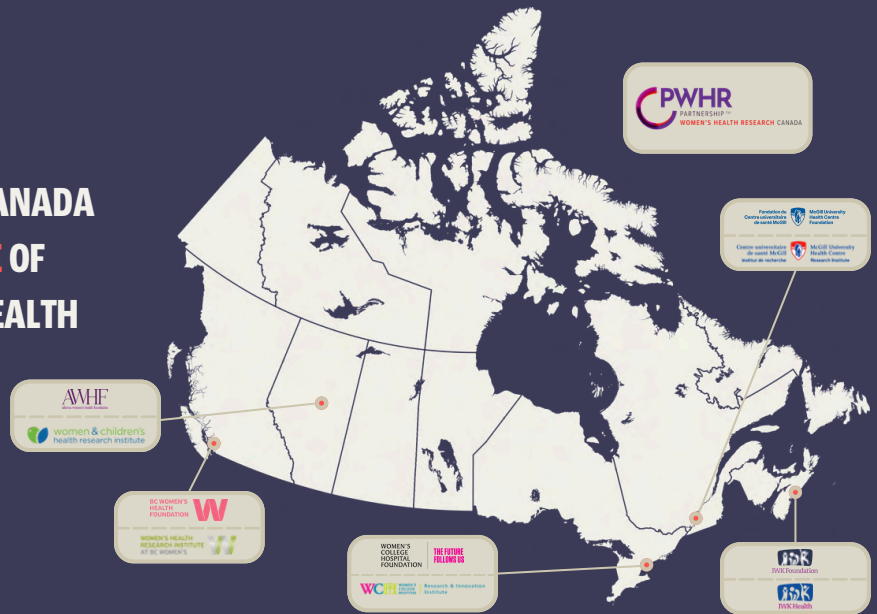


Amy Flood
Executive Director, WHCC

OUR COLLECTIVE

WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA (WHCC) IS A NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CANADA'S LEADING WOMEN'S HEALTH FOUNDATIONS

It represents the largest combined source of non-government funding for women's health research in Canada.



While WHCC drives fundraising and research investment, the Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada (PWHR) leads research excellence and collaboration. Supported by WHCC's members, PWHR's network of partner institutions bring together more than 1,200 women's health researchers from diverse disciplines who address health issues across the lifespan. Each year, these researchers mentor more than 1,500 trainees, from undergraduate students to postdoctoral and clinical fellows. Through its events and programs, PWHR reaches people in more than 37 countries.



VISION

A future for Canada and the world where every woman receives the high-quality care they deserve.

MISSION

To be the leading platform for women's health research, information, and education for every woman in Canada. We curate, translate, and advocate so that women in Canada have autonomy over their own health.

OUR GOALS & DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Scale funding for women's health research
- Ensure equitable representation of women in research and clinical trials
- Make women visible in evidence, innovation, and decision-making
- Advance national coordination and shared accountability

STRATEGIC PILLARS



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Building national collaborations that bring partners together to support research, accelerate learning, amplify impact and advance systems-level change.



EDUCATION

Advancing evidence-based knowledge sharing, mobilization and public engagement so research informs clinical practice and policy, while empowering women with trusted information about their health.



RESEARCH

Funding and supporting high-quality, women-centred research that addresses critical gaps in knowledge and care, and reflects the realities of women's lives.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & HEALTH AGENCY PARTNERSHIP

Advocating for and advancing policies that support women's health through coordinated action, increased funding, research and care.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT 2025-2026

RESEARCH. EDUCATION. PARTNERSHIPS. ADVOCACY.

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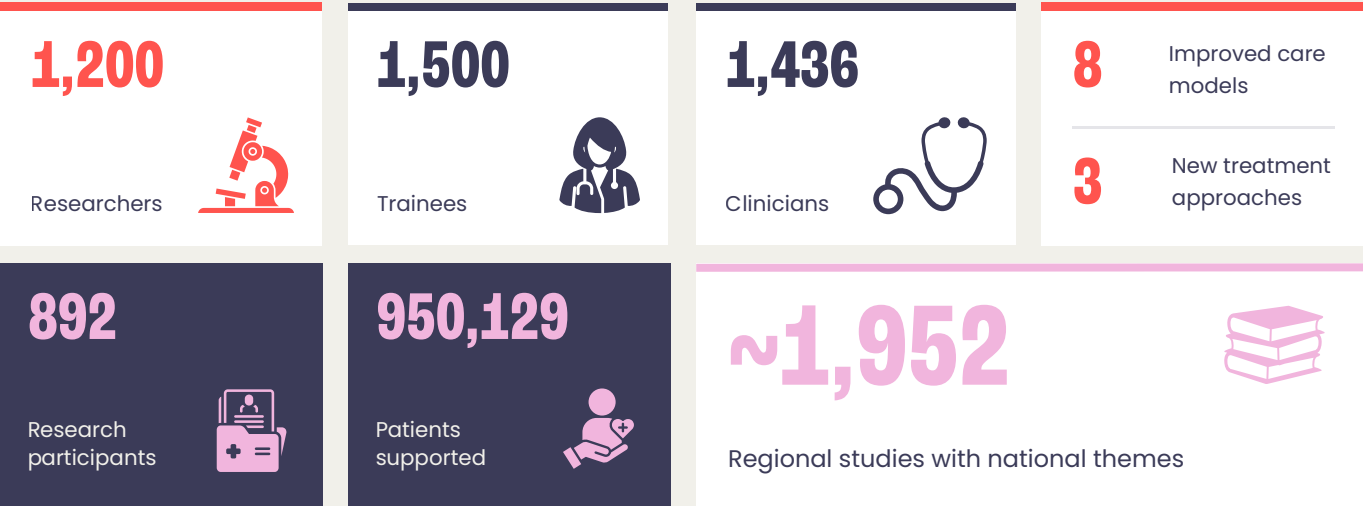
THROUGH WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA, FOUNDATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE UNITING INVESTMENT, INCLUSIVE RESEARCH, AND LIVED EXPERIENCE TO MOVE DISCOVERY INTO REAL-WORLD IMPACT.

BY THE NUMBERS

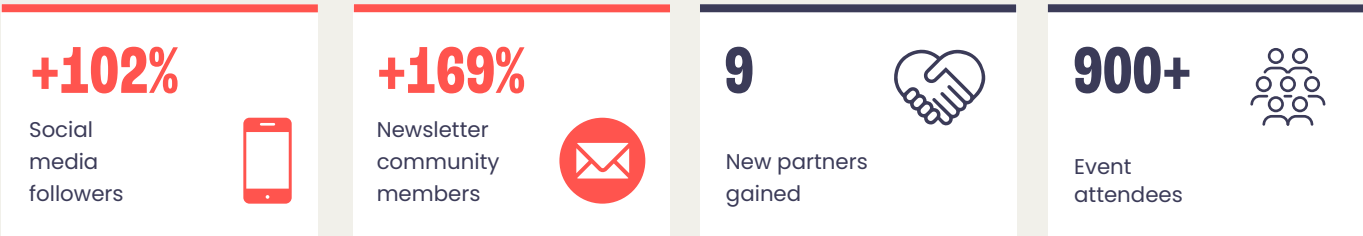
OUR IMPACT

Powering Women's Health Research Across Canada

Our Collective Partners are advancing women's health research and care across the country



A Growing Community



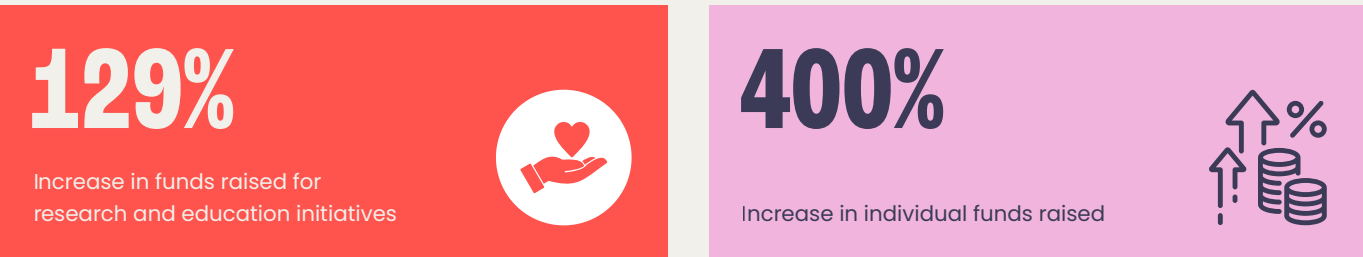
National Events



Campaigns & Reports



Fundraising Growth



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WHCC IS ONE OF CANADA'S STRONGEST UNIFYING FORCES FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, BRINGING TOGETHER INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND LEADERS WITH A SHARED COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY. TOGETHER, WE ARE ADVANCING RESEARCH, IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE AND INSPIRING MEANINGFUL ACTION THAT WILL HELP CLOSE THE WOMEN'S HEALTH GAP FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



Cally Wesson, President & CEO
BC Women's Health Foundation

BC WOMEN'S
HEALTH
FOUNDATION



A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR WOMEN STARTS WITH RESEARCH

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WHEN WE INVEST IN **WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH**, THE IMPACT REACHES FAR BEYOND THE LAB.



BETTER CARE BEGINS WITH HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH

Every study funded and every breakthrough started brings us closer to a future where women in Canada can live healthier lives.

While our Collective supports research and treatment across nearly all aspects of women's health, findings from the McKinsey Health Institute's landmark report, *Closing the Women's Health Gap: Canada's \$37 Billion Opportunity*, show that five key conditions and areas of health drive 75% of the women's health gap.

CANCER	CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES	BRAIN & MENTAL HEALTH	HORMONAL HEALTH & MENOPAUSE	CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN
				
The #1 cause of death for women in Canada	A Canadian woman dies every 20 minutes from heart disease	Suicide is the 4 th leading cause of maternal death	1 in 10 women will leave the workforce due to unmanaged menopause	1 in 10 women living with endometriosis, a main cause of pelvic pain

\$1.6M

WHCC supported research initiatives with **\$1.6 million**.

WOMEN'S HEALTH
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AT BC WOMEN'S



MENOPAUSE & MIDLIFE VULVAR RESEARCH:

INVESTIGATING SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION AND GENITOURINARY SYNDROME, AND HELP-SEEKING TRAJECTORIES IN MENOPAUSE

This research will address a critical evidence gap affecting midlife Canadian women. Its findings will help doctors better recognize and treat Genitourinary Syndrome of Menopause and sexual dysfunction. By informing patient-centered models of menopause care and related policies, this work will help ensure the needs of midlife women are better met and barriers to care are reduced.

"Findings will have direct implications for improving clinical recognition and management of GSM and sexual dysfunction, informing patient-centred and equitable models of menopause care, and guiding policy decisions to reduce unmet need and financial burden among midlife women."



Dr. Lori Brotto, PhD, R Psych,

Former Executive Director, Women's Health Research Institute
Director, UBC Sexual Health Laboratory Professor, Department of
Obstetrics & Gynaecology, UBC Distinguished University Scholar



CREATION OF HEALTH EDUCATION TOOLS FOR WOMEN WITH INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS/FEMALE BLADDER PAIN SYNDROME

Chronic Pelvic Pain affects as many as one in four Canadian women, yet many struggle to find clear information and timely care. Dr. Erin Kelly's research is partnering with patients to co-create educational resources that are accurate, accessible, and grounded in lived experience. By developing and testing patient-informed classes and educational materials, this project will help women better understand their conditions, support informed decision-making, and improve pelvic health care for future patients.

"Better care begins with listening to women whose symptoms have too often been overlooked, and developing research that reflects their needs. From the beginning, we should have been engaging patients directly in the development of these educational tools."



Dr. Erin Kelly, MD FRCSC (WCHRI),

Urogynecologist and Associate Professor in the
University of Alberta Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology



IMPROVING CARE FOR WOMEN THROUGH THE MENOPAUSE TRANSITION WITH THE MENOPAUSE AND MIDLIFE HORIZON STUDY

Menopause is a natural stage of life, yet its impact on women's health remains under-researched. The Menopause and Midlife Horizon Study is helping close this gap by studying how menopause and midlife affect aging, health and longevity. By building a stronger understanding of the menopause transition, this research will pave the way for better treatments, more personalized care, and improved health outcomes for women now and in the future.

"This work will generate the evidence needed to better understand lived experiences, improve clinical care, and inform future research in an area of women's health that has long been under-recognized."



Dr. Rulan Parekh MD, MS, FRCP(C), FASN,

Vice President, Academics, Women's College Hospital
Senior Scientist, Women's College Hospital Research
and Innovation Institute F.M. Hill Chair in Health System
Solutions, Women's College Hospital



HELPING PREVENT STROKE BEFORE IT HAPPENS WITH AI

Women's risk of stroke rises sharply after menopause, but today's screening methods often miss the unique changes happening in women's blood vessels. The iCARE project is harnessing artificial intelligence and one of North America's largest collections of vascular data to detect early signs of stroke risk before a life-threatening event occurs. By giving clinicians a faster, more accurate way to identify women at highest risk, this research is paving the way for earlier intervention, more personalized care, and healthier futures for women across Canada.

"When we invest in women's health research, the impact reaches far beyond the lab. It directly improves patient care, strengthens communities, and shapes the future of health care to be more inclusive. The MUHC Foundation's partnership with Women's Health Collective Canada represents an exciting moment for women's health in our province and nationally. Together, we are closing long-standing gaps in research and care, and ensuring women are treated with the knowledge and precision they deserve."



Dr. Stella Daskalopoulou MD, MSc, PhD,
Director, Vascular Health Unit, Associate Program
Leader – Cardiovascular Health across the Lifespan, RI-MUHC
Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Internal
Medicine; Director of the Vascular Health Unit, McGill University



PERIMENOPAUSAL HEALTH AND SEXUAL WELLBEING (PHASE)

The PHASE study is advancing understanding of how perimenopause affects women's sexual health and wellbeing by following nearly 400 participants over 16 months to examine changes in sexual function, distress, and quality of life. Already surpassing its enrollment target, the study is generating critical insights into an often-overlooked area of women's health, identifying key biological, psychological, and social factors that shape women's sexual health experiences. The findings will help improve education, inform earlier interventions, and support the development of more responsive care for women navigating the menopause transition.

"Changes to sexual function are among the most common and unexpected symptoms of perimenopause, yet knowledge about this highly valued part of women's lives has been severely neglected. Our study has the potential to uncover how, when, and why, various facets of women's sexual function changes across perimenopause. Our results will aid in identifying risk and protective factors contributing to these difficulties and contribute to earlier assessment and intervention, leading to better long-term outcomes for women and their partners."



Dr. Natalie Rosen, PhD, R Psych,
Professor, Psychology & Neuroscience, Obstetrics
& Gynaecology, Dalhousie University

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ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTH IS ONE OF THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR TIME—AND IT IS WORK NO SINGLE ORGANIZATION CAN DO ALONE. THROUGH WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA, FOUNDATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE UNITING INVESTMENT, INCLUSIVE RESEARCH, AND LIVED EXPERIENCE TO MOVE DISCOVERY INTO REAL-WORLD IMPACT. THE MOMENTUM WE ARE BUILDING TOGETHER IS CHANGING NOT ONLY WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WOMEN'S HEALTH, BUT HOW WOMEN EXPERIENCE HEALTH AND CARE ACROSS CANADA.



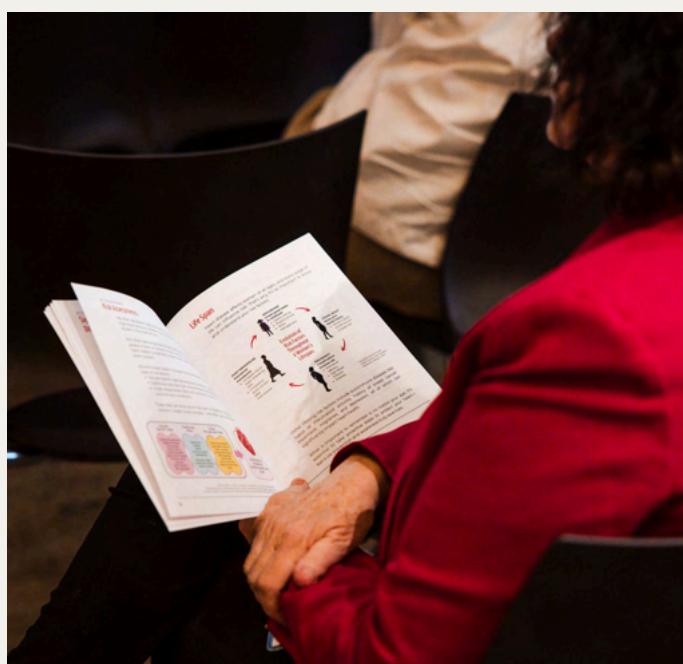
Sharlene Rutherford, President & CEO
Alberta Women's Health Foundation



MOBILIZING RESEARCH INTO NATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

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THE MOMENTUM WE ARE BUILDING TOGETHER IS CHANGING NOT ONLY WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WOMEN'S HEALTH, BUT **HOW WOMEN EXPERIENCE HEALTH AND CARE ACROSS CANADA.**



WHCC helps bring important conversations about women's health into the public sphere. Drawing on research and expertise from across PWHR's network, we make evidence more accessible, help women feel informed and less alone in their experiences, and equip decision-makers with knowledge that can support change within their organizations and communities.

Every conversation, campaign and public engagement initiative helps build a more informed Canada, where women's health is better understood, more openly discussed and better supported.

Vital Talks

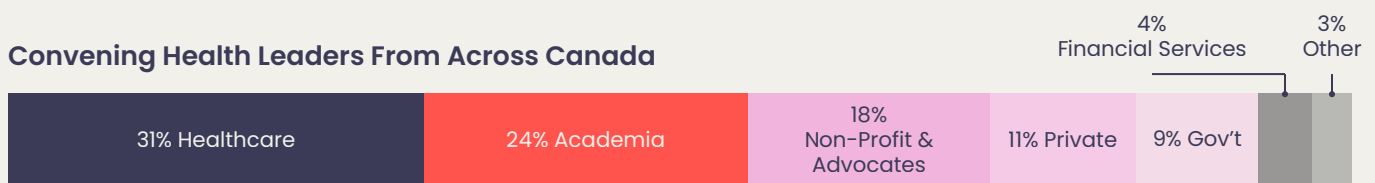
Launched in fall 2025, the Vital Talks series featured three sessions and brought together more than 500 people interested in trusted, evidence-based information about women's health. The series created space for women, healthcare leaders, researchers, advocates and partners to learn from one another and engage in meaningful conversations about women's health and lived experiences. WHCC convened 15 experts and advocates to explore issues that matter to women, including menopause, hormonal health and the connection between women's health and economic well-being.



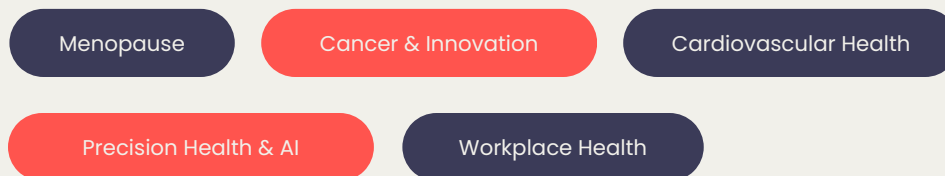
In March 2026, WHCC collaborated with the Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada (PWHR), the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH), and the Pan-Canadian Women's Health Coalition (PCWHC) to bring together 400 people in Toronto for a two-day National Women's Health Summit. The Summit convened leaders, advocates, experts, partners and people with lived experience to examine the challenges contributing to the women's health gap and the promising approaches emerging across Canada. Connections were formed, ideas were exchanged and momentum continued to build toward improving women's health nationwide.



Convening Health Leaders From Across Canada



Vital Conversations About



Notes from our Supporters:

“STRONG FOCUS ON THE SCIENCE, AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY ADVOCATES/PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE – THEY WERE INSPIRING AND REALLY BROUGHT HOME THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH.”

“THANK YOU FOR HAVING DIFFERENT GROUPS REPRESENTED IN THE BOOTH AREA – I ENJOYED LEARNING FROM THE DIFFERENT GROUPS REPRESENTED”

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

VITAL OPPORTUNITY

WHCC launched the Vital Opportunity and Blueprint for Action campaigns with our knowledge partner, McKinsey Health Institute, to raise awareness of the scale and impact of Canada's women's health gap and build support for change.

The campaigns highlighted the human, social and economic consequences of poorer health outcomes for women. They also demonstrated what Canada stands to gain by closing the gap, including an estimated annual contribution of up to \$37 billion annually to Canada's economy by 2040.



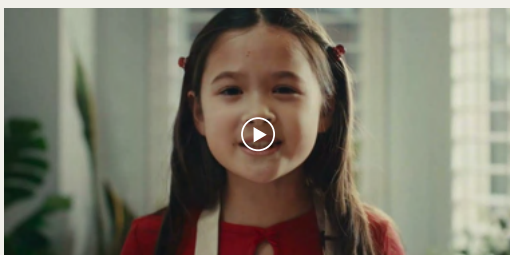
What better data looks like

- ✓ **Standardize data collection**
Align how women's health data is collected across research, care, and systems.
- ✓ **Require sex- and gender-disaggregated data**
Ensure research, trials, and reporting reflect real differences in health.
- ✓ **Use data to drive decisions**
Embed data into policy, funding, education, and care — not just reporting.

VITALLY IMPORTANT

Our Vitally Important campaign was created to spotlight how the women's health gap affects women across their lives and to inspire greater awareness, conversation, action and investment.

Through relatable storytelling and evidence-based messages, the campaign made the everyday consequences of historically underfunded and under-researched areas of women's health more visible. It reinforced why investing in women's health is vitally important for women, families, communities and Canada's future.



Women spend 24% more time in poor health than men.

CHANGING THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT

FUND THE FACTS. JOIN THE MOVEMENT. WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA

Up to 50% of adolescent girls report missing school and sports due to painful cramps.

CHANGING THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT

FUND THE FACTS. JOIN THE MOVEMENT. WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA

1 in 10 women in Canada may leave the workforce due to unmanaged menopause symptoms.

CHANGING THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT

FUND THE FACTS. JOIN THE MOVEMENT. WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA

Women's health is vital. Our system doesn't always treat it that way.

CHANGING THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT

FUND THE FACTS. JOIN THE MOVEMENT. WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA

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FOR MORE THAN 140 YEARS, WOMEN’S COLLEGE HOSPITAL HAS CHALLENGED HEALTHCARE TO DO BETTER FOR WOMEN. THROUGH WOMEN’S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA, WE ARE CARRYING THAT LEGACY FORWARD WITH PARTNERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, BUILDING MOMENTUM, CLOSING GAPS AND HELPING SHAPE A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.



Sandra Sualim, President & CEO
Women’s College Hospital Foundation



Ontario

PARTNERSHIPS IN CHANGE

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**WHEN CARE IS MORE RESPONSIVE & INCLUSIVE,
OUTCOMES IMPROVE FOR EVERYONE.**



PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

When partners come together around shared goals, we are able to advance women's health more impactfully than any one organization can achieve alone. Every partnership strengthens our ability to invest in research and innovation, expand education, and create lasting systems change that improve outcomes for women.

27%

More than a quarter of our partners chose to invest in multiple initiatives, demonstrating a shared commitment to advancing women's health through research, education, and advocacy.

ACCELERATING RESEARCH

Investing in women's health research will better inform healthcare providers, and help improve standards of care, so women don't have to be misdiagnosed or misunderstood.



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WE ARE PROUD TO CONTINUE OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH WHCC TO HELP CLOSE THE WOMEN'S HEALTH GAP IN CANADA. THIS INVESTMENT REFLECTS OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITIES AT EVERY LIFE STAGE – THROUGH BETTER RESEARCH, BETTER CARE, AND BETTER OUTCOMES.

Paulette Minard

Director, Community Investment at Shopper's Foundation for Women's Health

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

Our partners are helping translate research into trusted, evidence-based information that empowers and informs women and leaders across sectors. Through initiatives like Vital Talks series, and the Vital Opportunity campaign, these partnerships help mobilize research to the public.



“AT DESJARDINS INSURANCE, WE DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT EVERY WOMAN DESERVES TO BE SUPPORTED IN HER HEALTH, WELL-BEING, AND FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE – AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE.”

Chantal Gagné
President & Chief Operating Officer at Desjardins Financial Security

BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR A NATIONAL MOVEMENT

The first-ever Vitally Important: National Women’s Health Summit demonstrated what meaningful partnerships can make possible, bringing leaders together to spark ideas and build momentum for women’s health.

Event Partners



Supporting Partners and Sponsors



“WOMEN'S HEALTH STILL FACES IMPORTANT GAPS IN RESEARCH, INNOVATION, ACCESS AND AWARENESS. AT ORGANON, WE KNOW PROGRESS HAPPENS WHEN SECTORS WORK TOGETHER, AND WOMEN'S VOICES ARE HEARD AND VALUED. THAT'S WHY THE VITALLY IMPORTANT SUMMIT MATTERS AND WHY WE'RE HERE: TO LISTEN, SHARE INSIGHTS AND COLLABORATE WITH LEADERS IN HELPING DRIVE CHANGE SO WOMEN'S HEALTH IS PRIORITIZED AND BETTER SUPPORTED.”

Dominic Bégin

President and Managing Director, Organon Canada

A SPECIAL **THANK YOU** TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

They recognize the importance of women's health now and have helped fuel our movement. You are inspiring your communities to join ours at a vitally important time.

THE JILLY BOX

LANDRY

MCKESSON



“AT OTIP, OUR FOCUS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH IS ABOUT CREATING LASTING IMPACT, NOT ONE-OFF INITIATIVES. WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN LISTENING TO LIVED EXPERIENCE, ADVANCING CREDIBLE RESEARCH, AND ADVOCATING FOR MORE EQUITABLE, EVIDENCE-INFORMED CARE. OUR SUPPORT REFLECTS A DELIBERATE COMMITMENT TO CLOSING LONG-STANDING GAPS AND STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS, SO THEY RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS. WHEN CARE IS MORE RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE, OUTCOMES IMPROVE FOR EVERYONE, AND WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT WORK THAT HELPS MOVE WOMEN'S HEALTH FORWARD.”



Stacey Rous

COO & CFO, Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP)

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WHEN PEOPLE COME TOGETHER AROUND A SHARED PURPOSE, WE CAN MOVE FASTER, THINK BIGGER AND CREATE CHANGE THAT TRULY LASTS. THE MOMENTUM WE ARE SEEING IN WOMEN’S HEALTH ACROSS CANADA IS POWERFUL BECAUSE IT REFLECTS A GROWING BELIEF THAT WOMEN DESERVE CARE THAT IS MORE EQUITABLE, MORE INNOVATIVE AND MORE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEEDS. AT THE MUHC FOUNDATION, WE ARE PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS MOVEMENT AND DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE DONORS, PARTNERS AND LEADERS WHO ARE HELPING US MOVE HEALTH CARE FORWARD AND BUILD A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR WOMEN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.”

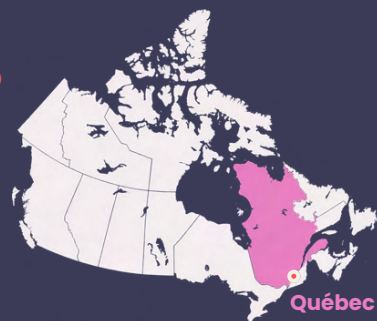


Marie-Hélène Laramée, President & CEO
MUHC Foundation

Fondation du
Centre universitaire
de santé McGill



McGill University
Health Centre
Foundation



ADVOCATING FOR NATIONAL ACTION

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THE MOMENTUM WE ARE SEEING IN WOMEN'S HEALTH ACROSS CANADA IS POWERFUL BECAUSE IT REFLECTS A GROWING BELIEF THAT WOMEN DESERVE CARE THAT IS **MORE EQUITABLE, MORE INNOVATIVE AND MORE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEEDS.**



LASTING CHANGE REQUIRES MORE THAN RESEARCH

It requires policy, investment, and national leadership. **WHCC is helping build all three.**

7%

While representing half of the population and workforce, female-specific research representation **remains at ~7%** of all research in Canada. With growing momentum in women's health research and innovation across Canada, now is the time for leaders to address our health system that was never designed for women.

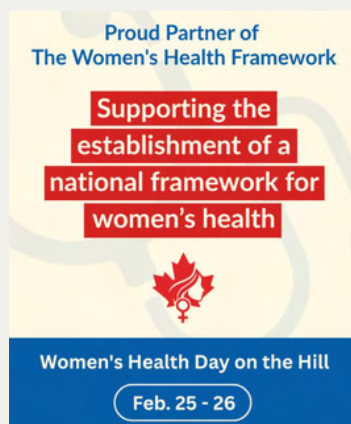
AUGUST 2025



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

In August 2025, WHCC submitted recommendations to the federal government as part of the federal pre-budget consultation process, supported by Partnership for Women's Health Research (PWHR) and CanWach, calling for targeted investments for a National Women's Health Strategy, and a \$150 million investment over three years to support women's health research through WHCC's network. The recommendations reinforced women's health as essential to a healthier and more prosperous Canada.

DECEMBER 2025



BILL S-243

In December 2025, Bill S-243: An Act to establish a national framework for women's health in Canada, was introduced to the Senate of Canada. The bill represents a path toward sustained national attention, clearer accountability, and long-term action in areas of women's health that have too often been fragmented or overlooked. WHCC is part of the national leadership team that helped shape the vision, priorities, and policy foundations behind Bill S-243. If passed, Canada would become a G7 leader by making the development and ongoing review of a national women's health framework a legal requirement.

**FEBRUARY
2026**

DAY ON THE HILL

In February 2026, WHCC's Executive Director, Amy Flood, joined more than 200 researchers, clinicians, advocates, innovators, business leaders and policymakers on Parliament Hill to advance the case for a national framework for women's health. Building on Bill S-243, the two-day engagement highlighted evidence, expertise, lived experience, and strengthened the call for investments in research and care. WHCC helped strengthen momentum for coordinated national action to address the women's health gap.



**MARCH
2026**

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH SENATOR DANIELE HENKEL

WHCC Executive Director, Amy Flood, was joined by Senator Henkel, who is leading the national effort for Bill S-243 at the Vitally Important: National Women's Health Summit to discuss the bill, and why women's health is critical for everyone.



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THE IWK FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA AND TO STAND ALONGSIDE A COMMUNITY THAT IS COMMITTED TO ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH. FOR TOO LONG, WE HAVE WAITED FOR CHANGE WHILE WOMEN'S HEALTH HAS RECEIVED LESS THAN SEVEN PERCENT OF RESEARCH FUNDING. COLLECTIVE ACTION IS ABOUT COMING TOGETHER WITH A SHARED PURPOSE AND RECOGNIZING THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE FAR MORE TOGETHER THAN WE EVER COULD ALONE. TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS AT WHCC AND THE MORE THAN 1,000 RESEARCHERS WE REPRESENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WE ARE READY TO PUSH FOR THE REAL, SYSTEMIC CHANGE NEEDED TO TRANSFORM HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN. OUR TIME IS NOW.



Jennifer Gillivan, ICD.D
President & CEO, IWK Foundation



LOOKING AHEAD

The achievements of the past year are only the beginning. There is still important work ahead. There is more research needed to answer critical questions in women's health, more innovation to improve standards of care, and more opportunities to equip women with the knowledge and support they need to feel empowered in their health journeys.

WHCC remains committed to convening transformational partners, advancing collaboration, and deepening our impact so that research can lead to real change for the women in all of our lives.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO



BUILD A NETWORK OF TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERS TO COLLECTIVELY INVEST MILLIONS INTO WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH ACROSS CANADA



DRIVE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF THE WOMEN'S HEALTH EQUITY GAP



ADVOCATE FOR MORE PUBLIC FUNDING OF WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH AND INTRODUCE STRATEGIC FUNDING PRIORITIES THAT ACCELERATE PROGRESS

GET INVOLVED

POWER THE NEXT BREAKTHROUGH

Funding women's health research is an investment in women's potential. It means accelerating vital research that can improve standard of care, and ensuring that women can participate fully in their workplaces, families, and communities without being held back by preventable or treatable health conditions.

Every partnership, donation, and conversation helps build a future where women's health is prioritized, researched, and treated with the urgency it deserves. By choosing to invest in research today, we have the power to shape a healthier future for women, families, and generations to come.

There are many ways to get involved: whcc.ca/get-involved

MAKE A DONATION

PARTNER WITH US

ATTEND AN EVENT

**SHARE OUR WORK, OR HELP AMPLIFY THE CONVERSATION AROUND
WOMEN'S HEALTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND WORKPLACE.**

**OUR NATIONAL MOVEMENT IS GROWING FAST AND
WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US IN MAKING WOMEN'S
HEALTH IN CANADA VITALLY IMPORTANT.**



WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CANADA

whcc.ca

IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026