CanWaCH Gender Equality Working Group - Terms of Reference

Mandate

Pursuant to the vision, mission and strategic plan for CanWaCH, the Gender Equality Working Group (GEWG) will advise the CanWaCH Secretariat on strategic, effective and innovative approaches to increasing the capacity of CanWaCH members, associates and partners to deliver gender transformative and rights-based approaches in programing.

Functions and Responsibilities

The Gender Equality Working Group will provide advice and support to CanWaCH staff and will provide leadership within the broader CanWaCH partnership. This advice and leadership will be focused on:

- Encouraging collaboration across CanWaCH membership to advance shared objectives on gender equality and health
- Creating opportunities for dialogue among CanWaCH members and associates to build common ground, increasing leadership on best and innovative practices to advance gender equality and health
- Providing input into mapping gender equality capacity across CanWaCH membership, identifying strengths, challenges and opportunities for learning and collaboration
- Participating in and leading gender equality learning opportunities, including workshops and online tools focused on gender transformative approaches
- Advising on the development of principles of gender equality and health for the CanWaCH network, in consultation with CanWaCH members and associates
- Exploring emerging opportunities for joint research, learning and advocacy on gender equality and health.
- Working with other CanWaCH working groups including the Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Working Group, the Metrics Working Group and the Public Engagement Working Group to ensure issues related to gender equality is a cross-cutting lens applied to all CanWaCH work.

Membership

- The GEWG will be composed of up to 20 members representing, as much as practically possible, a diversity of CanWaCH partners by organization size, region within Canada, programming focus, and location.
- Members of the Gender Equality Working Group will have expertise across disciplines including gender equality programming, policy, advocacy, monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- Eligibility to serve on the GEWG will be limited to employees or consultants of CanWaCH member organizations and CanWaCH associates. Exceptions may be granted in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the co-chairs.
A call for applications for inaugural members will be issued by the CanWaCH Secretariat, with successful applicants being selected by the CanWaCH Secretariat based on the criteria noted above.

Members of the Working Group be appointed for two-year term.

Vacancies will be filled either by appointment by the co-chairs, or through a public call for applicants, with successful applicants selected by the co-chairs. The method of selection will be at the discretion of the co-chairs.

The GEWG will have two co-chairs, one of whom is a member of the CanWaCH Secretariat (currently the Senior Advisor, Gender Equality) and one of whom is selected by the members of the working group.

The co-chair (non-Secretariat) will be appointed for a two-year term.

**Meeting Format**

- Meetings will be held monthly via video conference call
- A yearly face to face meeting will be planned in consultation with Working Group members
- Collaboration with other CanWaCH Working Groups will be organized where possible and appropriate