



# CanWaCH

Canadian Partnership for  
Women and Children's Health

## CanWaCH Youth Working Group

### Terms of Reference

<b>Mandate:</b>	<p>The Youth Working Group will provide input, expertise and advice towards CanWaCH's youth engagement coordination and outreach. The terms of reference are as follows:</p> <p>Pursuant to the vision, mission and strategic plan for CanWaCH, the Youth Working Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advise and make recommendations for meaningful youth engagement in programming and projects to the CanWaCH secretariat. This includes conducting, analyzing, and sharing feedback of diverse youth populations to ensure their perspectives are represented and incorporated into strategic decision-making processes.</li><li>• Provide strategic direction on how to meaningfully engage young people, advance their participation in decision-making processes and catalyze the adoption of youth engagement across processes.</li><li>• Support opportunities to develop tangible and practical skills and experience to support professional development.</li><li>• Provide access and opportunities for direct experiences within the international cooperation sector, reflecting the core belief that youth are leaders of today with valuable contributions to be made.</li><li>• Support CanWaCH public education and awareness efforts by acting as Youth Ambassadors within the membership.</li></ul>
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**Established:** May 2022

**Last Revised:** April 2023

**Reports To:** Director, Programs and Operations

### Terms of Working Group:

- Terms are 2 years. Representatives are required to commit to a minimum of one year but are encouraged to commit to a full two-year term. Members may be extended for 1 additional term (max 2 terms or 4 years). To be considered for extension, the member must express their interest in extending their term via email to the CanWaCH secretariat.

Those expressing interest are not guaranteed to have their terms extended; the co-chairs and the CanWaCH secretariat will evaluate applications for extension on a case-by-case basis alongside nominations received from those not currently represented on the working group.

- Annually, a call for nominations will be issued in May. The co-chairs and Secretariat will seek to confirm participation from current members ahead of the call for nominations. Nominations will be reviewed by the CanWaCH Secretariat and Youth Working Group co-chairs.

#### **Co-Chairs:**

- The Youth Working Group will have two co-chairs elected from within the membership. Chairs are responsible for leading Youth Working Group meetings (confirming the agenda, moderating the discussion and confirming decision points) with assistance from the CanWaCH secretariat. One of the two co-chairs should be present in all meeting calls, however, exceptions may be necessary.
- Terms are 2 years. Co-chairs are expected to commit to a minimum of one year but are encouraged to commit to a full two-year term.

#### **Membership:**

The youth working group will consist of up to 18 members whose community activities, engagement and lived experience reflect the mandate of the CanWaCH membership to advance the health and rights of women, children and adolescents around the world.

- **Age range of the members:** 18 to 30 years old.
- **Regional representation:** youth from each geographic region, including Atlantic Canada (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island), Central Canada (Québec, Ontario), the Prairies (Manitoba, Saskatchewan), the West (Alberta, British Columbia) and the North (Nunavut, Yukon, and Northwest Territories) are encouraged to apply.
- **Intersectionality of the members:** youth who have intersectional perspectives, identities and are connected to different social movements are encouraged to apply. This will include, but is not limited to, youth with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous or racialized youth, and youth who are migrants or refugees.

Experience volunteering or working with a CanWaCH member is an asset. Participation in either local and global networks addressing women, adolescent, and children's health is also a strong asset, but is not a requirement.

The Youth Working Group will be supported with secretariat services by CanWaCH personnel.

#### **Meeting Format:**

Monthly, virtual, 1 hour meetings. The Youth Working Group will also be responsible for organizing a semi-annual convening of professionals responsible for youth engagement and activities within the CanWaCH membership and its sector partners.