



## WOMEN'S HEALTH IN WOMEN'S HANDS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

### RESEARCH PROJECT OVERVIEW

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Title:	<b>CANADIAN HIV WOMEN AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH COHORT STUDY (CHIWOS), A CANADIAN OBSERVATIONAL COHORT (CANOC)</b>
Principal Investigator(s):	Dr. Mona Loutfy, Women's College Hospital
Co-Investigator(s):	51 Co-Investigators including Wangari Tharao (WHIWH)
Project Duration/ Funding:	CIHR Amount: 1.2 million dollars Duration: 2011 - 2016

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#### Project Summary:

Women represent one of the fastest growing demographics at risk for HIV. They make up over 50% of all adults living with HIV globally and 22% of cases in Canada. However, there remain major gaps in knowledge about the epidemiology, management and response of HIV-positive women living in different areas of Canada, and the impact of women-specific HIV/AIDS services on sexual, reproductive, mental and women's health.

This study aims to address a significant gap in knowledge related to the proportion, distribution, pattern, barriers to and facilitators of utilization of women-specific HIV/AIDS services use, and the impact of service uptake on the sexual, reproductive, mental and women's health of HIV-positive women in Canada.

The specific aims of this study are to estimate the:

- 1) proportion, distribution and patterns of, as well as the factors associated with, women-specific HIV/AIDS services uptake;
- 2) effect of women-specific HIV/AIDS services uptake on their reproductive and sexual health outcomes;
- 3) effect of women-specific HIV/AIDS services uptake on their women's health outcomes; and 4) the effect of women-specific HIV/AIDS services uptake on the mental health of HIV-positive women.

It is hypothesized that women-specific HIV/AIDS services use will be lowest in rural regions and among younger, Aboriginal and new immigrant women and those who report high levels of HIV-related stigma; and that HIV-positive women who report higher women-specific HIV/AIDS services use will report better reproductive and sexual health, women's health and mental health outcomes. The study will enroll 1,050 women in British Columbia (BC), Ontario (ON) and Quebec (QC).