

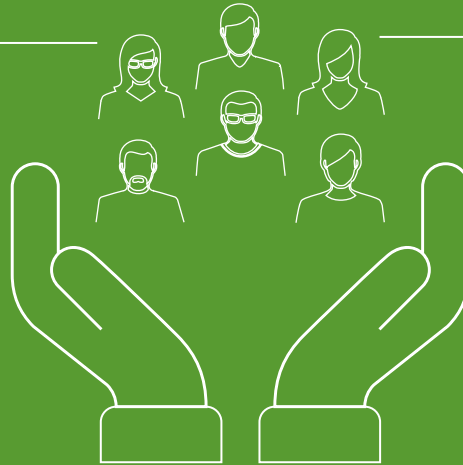
Creating a Stronger Base for Health Care Innovation

The case for enhanced support of research on primary, home, and community health care

Why invest in primary, home, and community health care?

Primary, home, and community health care are the foundation of the Canadian health care system.

"Strengthening primary health care ... is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health, as well as social well-being."
*Declaration of Astana*¹



Health systems with a strong primary care sector have better health outcomes, greater health equity, and often lower health care costs.^{2,3}

Provincial and territorial governments have identified strengthening primary, home, and community health care and their effective integration as critical priorities.

For every individual  admitted to hospital, 46 people see a primary care physician.⁴



Support for research in these sectors is currently inadequate

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funding of primary, home, and community health care research has not reflected the crucial role of these sectors in meeting the health care needs of everyone in Canada.



Combined open and strategic CIHR funding for home and community health care research as a percentage of total CIHR grant funding reached a high of

0.8%
in 2016–2017.⁵

In 2017–2018, primary health care research received just

3%
of total CIHR open and strategic research funding.⁵

Most CIHR primary, home, and community health care strategic research funding comes to an end by 2020.



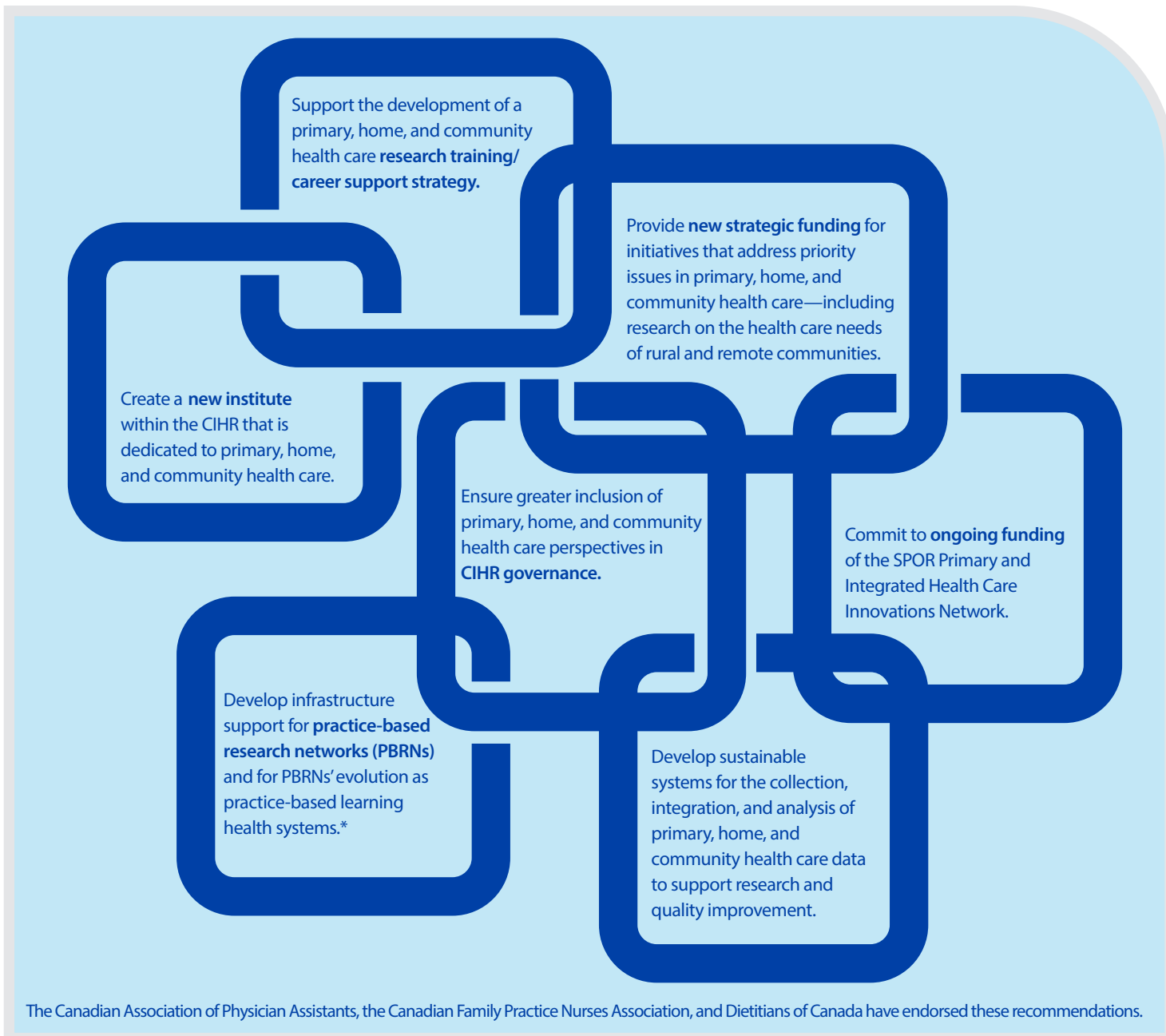
Less than

10%

of Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) funding has been dedicated to primary, home, and community health care.⁶

A call to action: What the CIHR and other stakeholders can do

The **CIHR's mandate** is “to excel ... in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system.”⁷ It also aims to respond to evolving needs by “building research capacity in under-developed areas.”⁷ Supporting the following recommendations would align with the CIHR's responsibilities:



 Questions or comments? Please contact us: research@cfpc.ca.

References

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6. Sabrina Wong (Co-chair, SPOR Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations Network Coordinating Office), pers. comm.
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* PBRNs are groups of primary care clinicians and practices working together to answer community-based health care questions and translate research findings into practice. PBRNs engage clinicians in quality improvement activities and an evidence-based culture in primary care practice to improve the health of all.