



# The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

## Citizen Engagement Framework

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## Overview/Agenda

1. Who we are
2. Why we are moving forward with this initiative
3. Key concepts of the framework
4. Where we are in the process
5. Discussion about how to lead change

## Some background on CIHR:

- who we are
- our mandate
- knowledge translation imperative

## Objective of the framework:

- To realize a more systematic, ongoing integration of citizens' input in research priority setting, governance and in funding programs and tools

## Trends in Canada and abroad



## Internal Scan of CIHR Activities

- Governance Roles: Institute Advisory Boards, SCOC
- Institute strategic planning and priority setting exercises
- Engagement of voluntary health organizations  
ie: working groups, sub-committees of IABs
- The Knowledge Exchange Task Force (KETF)
- Community Reviewers in peer review
- Funding of Integrated Knowledge Translation, participatory research and community based research methodologies



# Citizen Engagement

- more active involvement of citizens in research priority setting, governance and in funding programs and tools
- ideally through substantive, deliberative, in-depth consideration of values and principles
- collaborative relationships



# Citizens: A typology for CIHR

## Personal

### **Affected individuals**

(directly affected yet not affiliated with an organized group)

### **Individuals from the General public**

(personally interested and wish to contribute)

## Organized

### **Primary groups**

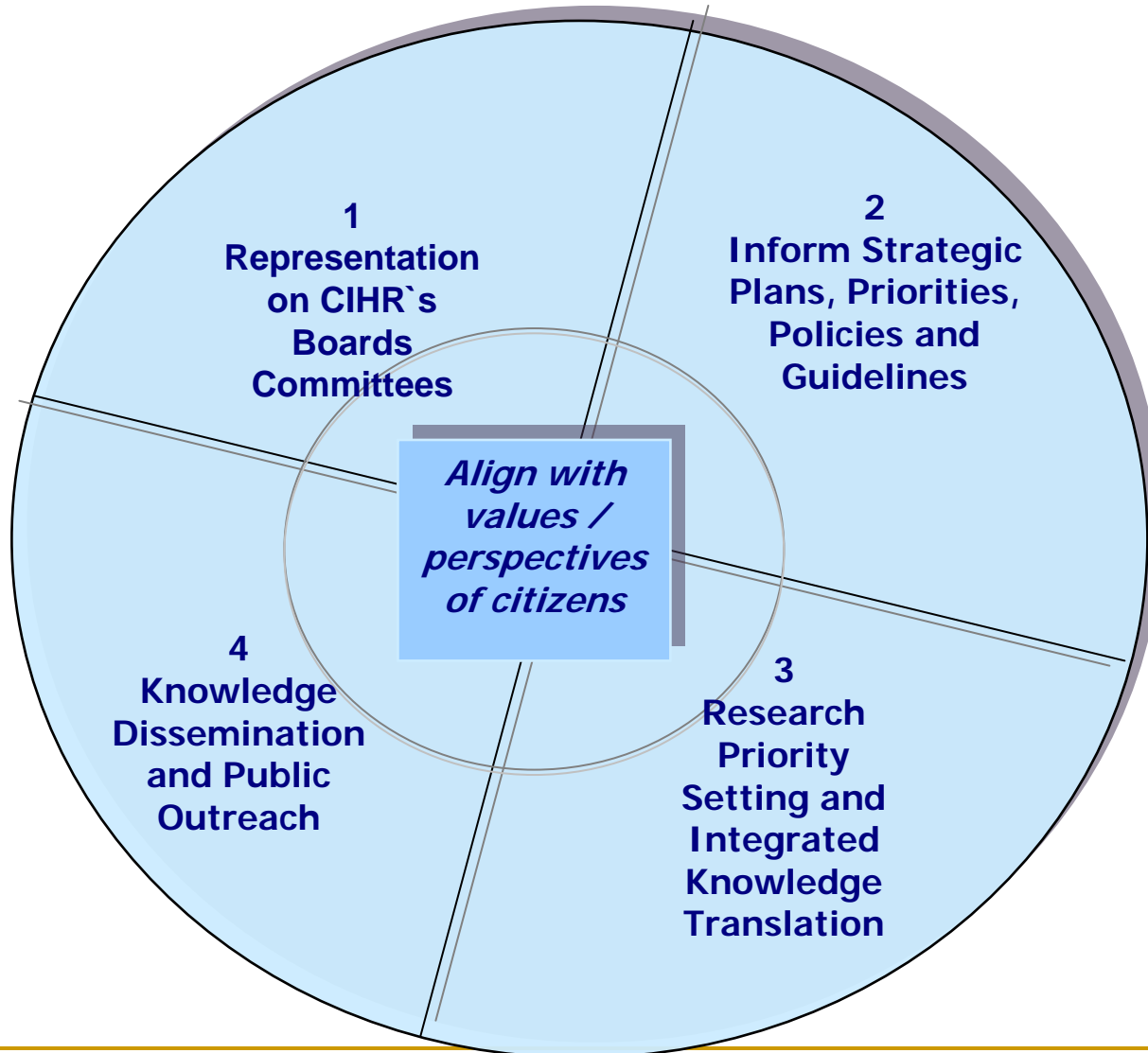
(groups representing citizens directly affected)

### **Secondary groups**

(have a potential to reach both primary groups and individuals)

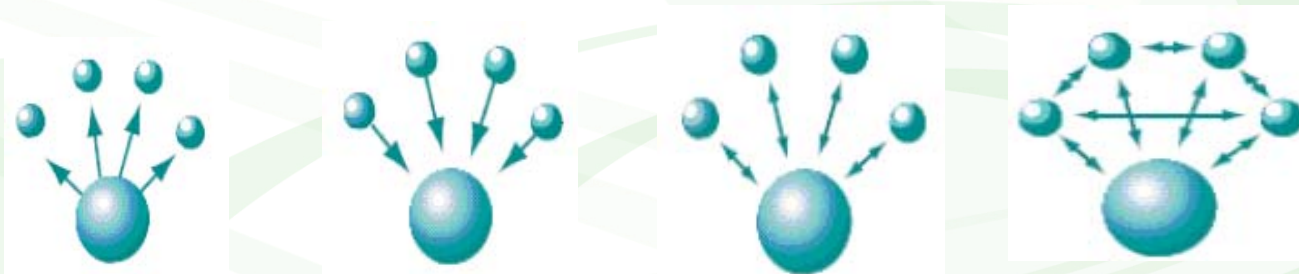
# Key Concepts of the Framework:

## Four areas of focus



## CIHR's spectrum of engagement

**Informing    Discussion    Dialogue    Collaboration**



## Reasons for involving citizens

- ❑ understand values
- ❑ hear diverse perspectives
- ❑ gather experiential knowledge (“experiential check in”)
- ❑ access untapped knowledge
- ❑ assist with risk management
- ❑ inform evaluation
- ❑ inform prioritization
- ❑ address public demand
- ❑ address historical injustices (redressing issues from previously disenfranchised or minority groups)



## Contributions citizens can make

- explore ideas—citizens bring new ideas and perspectives to allow CIHR to consider diverse viewpoints in the decision-making process;
- validate ideas—citizens and CIHR examine proposed research directions or issues in order to assess their applicability and fit with their experiences and “on-the-ground” reality;
- suggest ideas—CIHR gathers new and innovative ideas, approaches, or solutions from a broad range of perspectives; and
- reconcile ideas and values—CIHR engages citizens in a discussion to reconcile or prioritize competing ideas or values



**Improved Health of Canadians**

**Sustainable Decisions**

**Research to Improve Lives of Citizens**

**Validate and Inform Priorities and Preferences**

**Identify Research Gaps**

**Relevance of Research**

**Translation of Research into Practice**

**Enhance Accountability and Transparency**

**Citizen Knowledge**

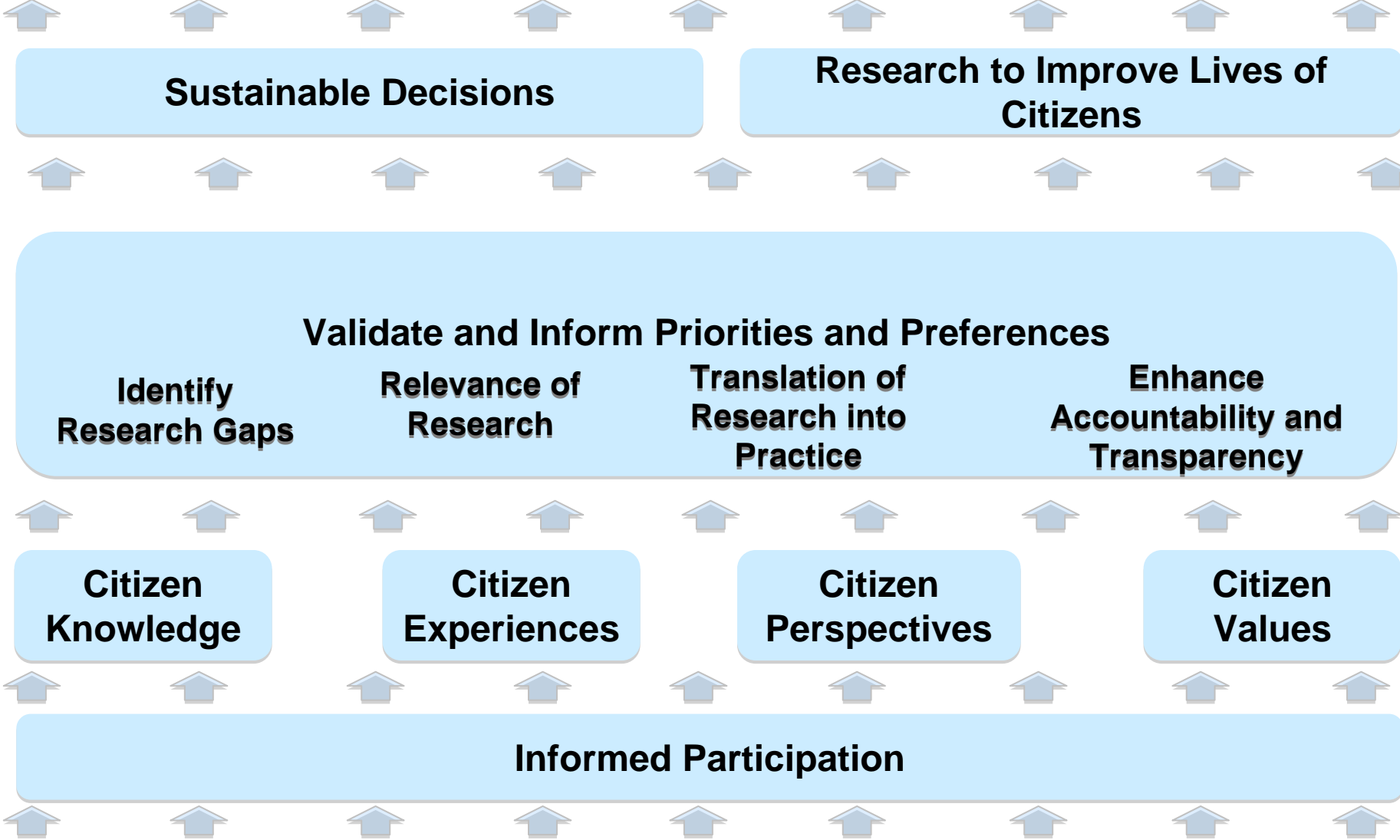
**Citizen Experiences**

**Citizen Perspectives**

**Citizen Values**

**Informed Participation**

**Sustained Citizen Engagement**



## Where we are in the process

### **Handbook for citizen engagement**

- **Decision tree tool**
- **IAP2 tools**

### **Learning opportunities for staff**

### **Joint presentations to Institute Advisory Boards**

### **Community of practice: internal and external**

