



# A CANADIAN-MADE IMPACT FRAMEWORK

**Deliverology for Science-based Organizations**  
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*“When it comes to research [and innovation], governments the world over are asking more questions about whether they are getting value for money...whether it is done implicitly or explicitly, everyone in that process is thinking about impact.”*

- Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of New Zealand

# THE CAHS IMPACT FRAMEWORK

- History and what it is
- Added value of using it
- How to apply it
- ‘Real-world’ experiences
- Applying it outside of health



# A BRIEF HISTORY

# CANADIAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (CAHS)

- Elected Fellows from diverse disciplines **within and external to health sector**
- Provides scientific advice for a healthy Canada
  - Assess **science and technology (S&T)** issues relevant to health
  - Support development of informed public policy
  - Enhance understanding of S&T issues affecting the public good

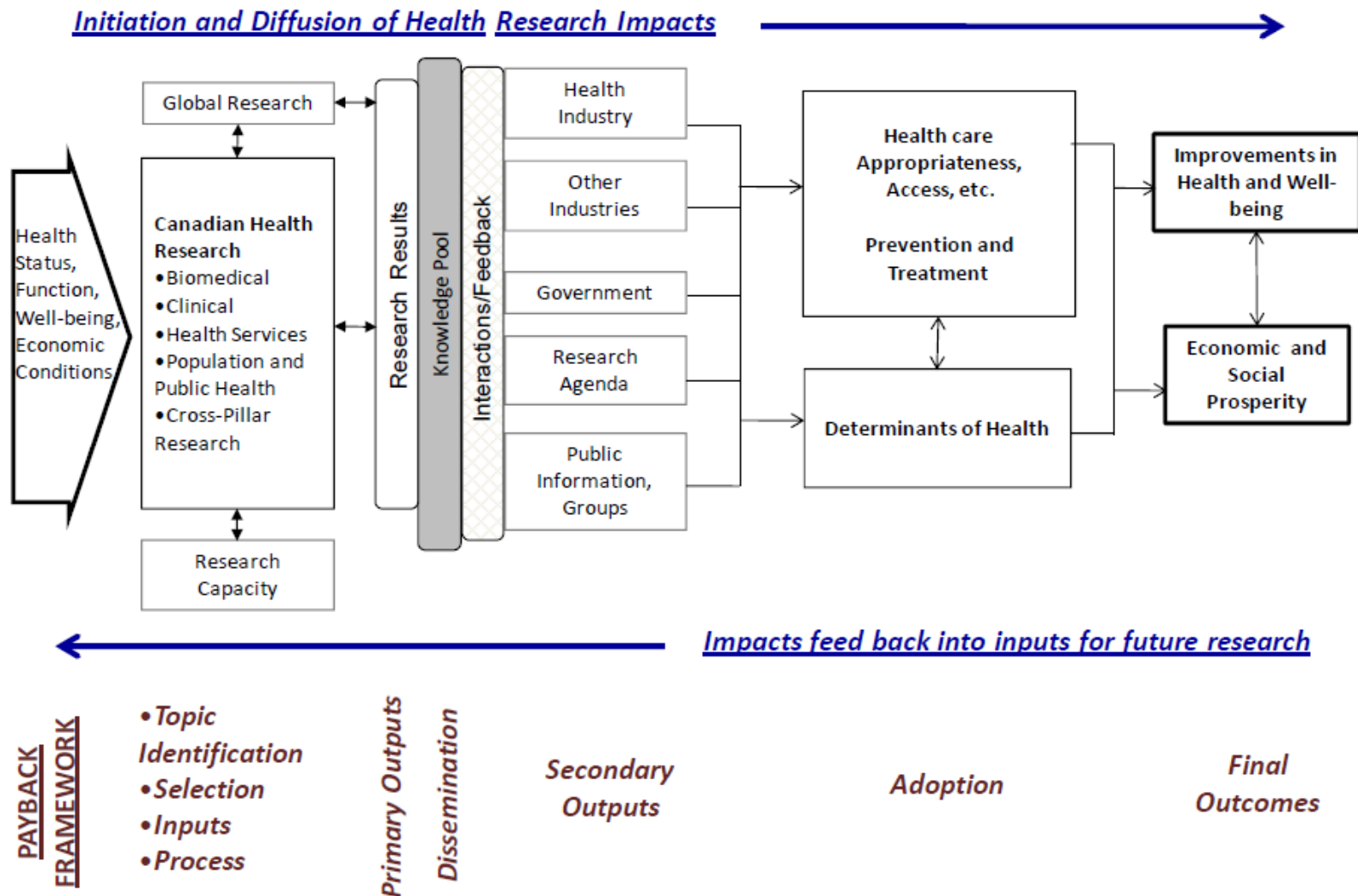
Greater investments in research & innovation come with increased expectations for returns

But, how best to 'capture returns' on (national) investments?

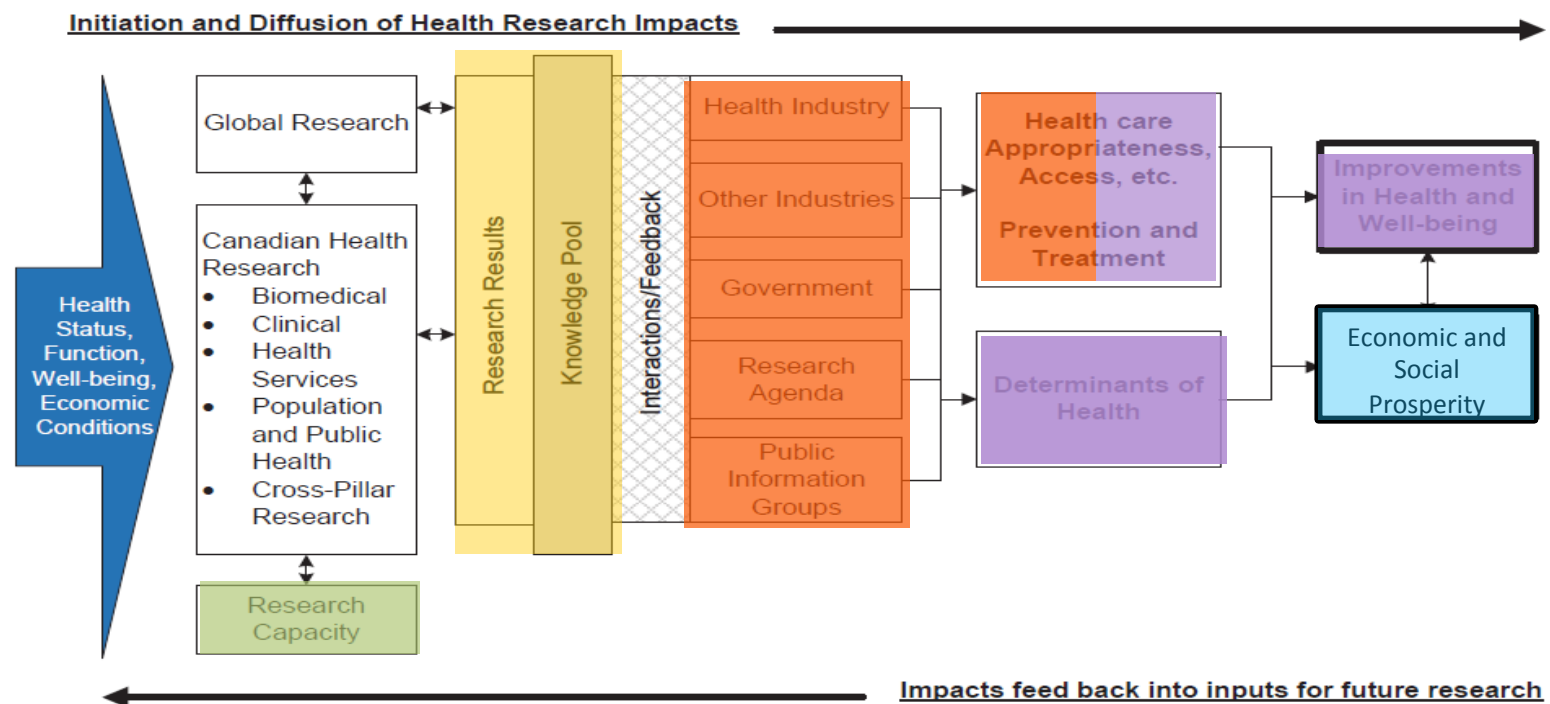
# THE CAHS RESPONSE

- Assessment to **define “return on investment”** (ROI) and **develop a “best framework”** by which ROI in health research can be measured
  - 23 organizational sponsors
  - Blue-ribbon panel
  - Commissioned papers to augment areas of perceived need in the available evidence

# IMPACT FRAMEWORK



# Designed as a roadmap to track research and innovation impacts according to 5 categories

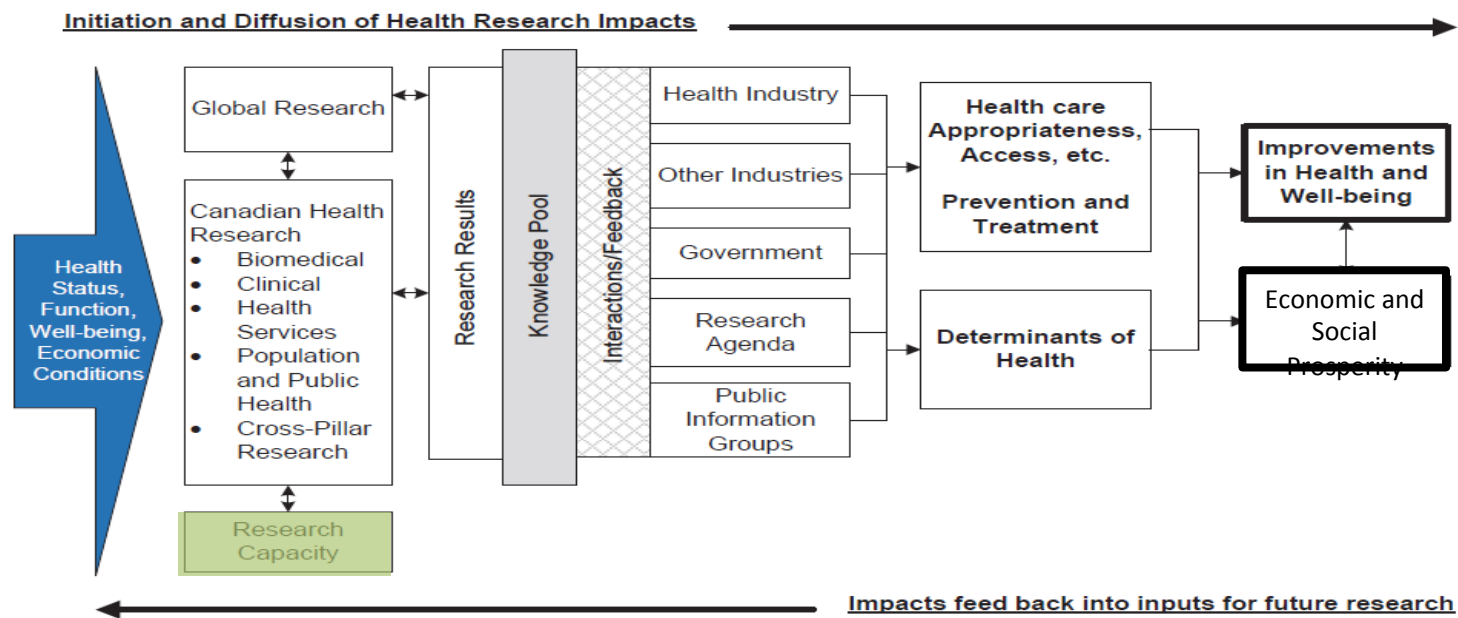


66 preferred indicators arranged according to the CAHS Framework

# CAPACITY BUILDING

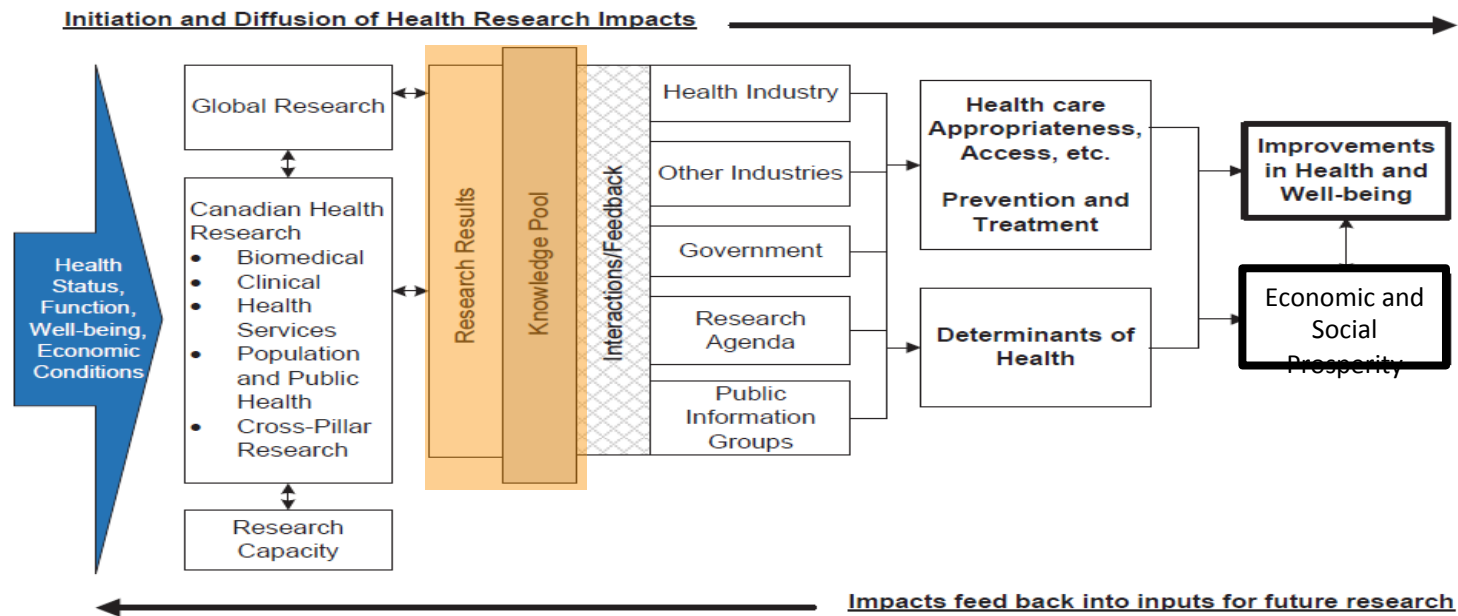
Outcomes that lead to an increased ability to conduct research.

Includes the development of research skills in personnel and trainees, enhancement of research infrastructure and funding.



# ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

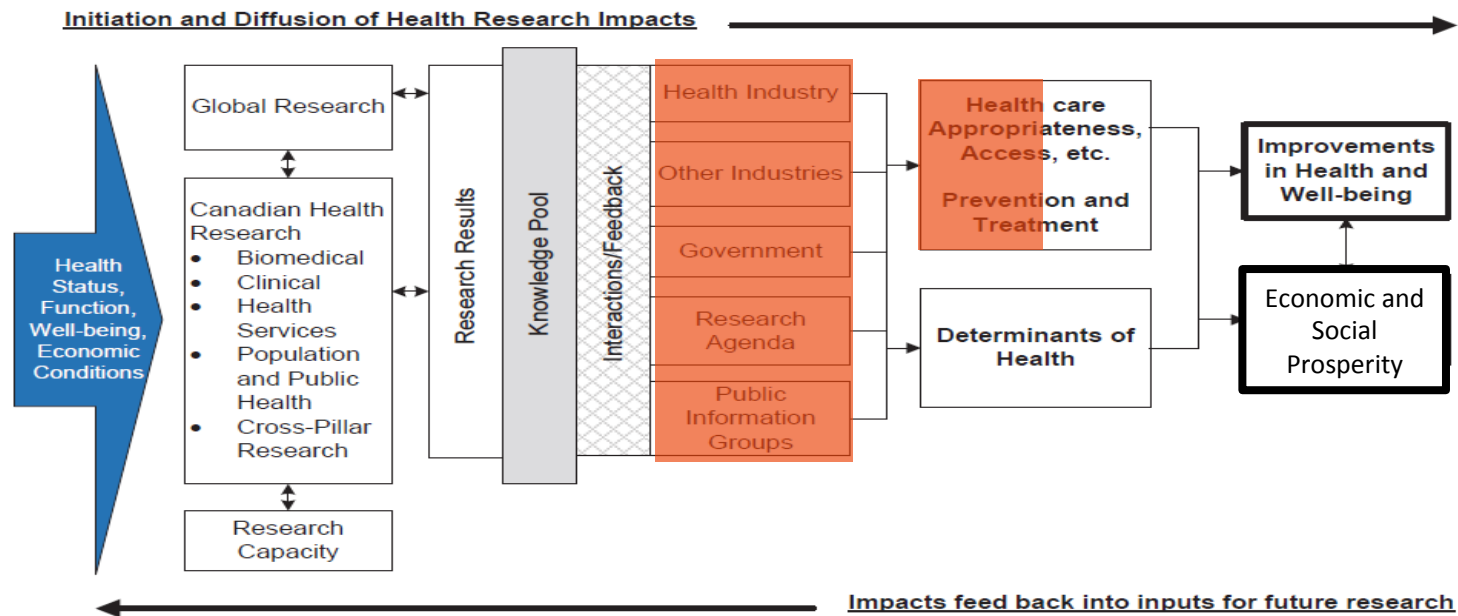
The process and mechanisms used to move knowledge beyond the researchers so that it creates awareness and understanding.



# INFORMING DECISION MAKING

Outcomes of activities that engage end-users in translating research findings into policies, practices, products or into patient, practitioner or public behaviours.

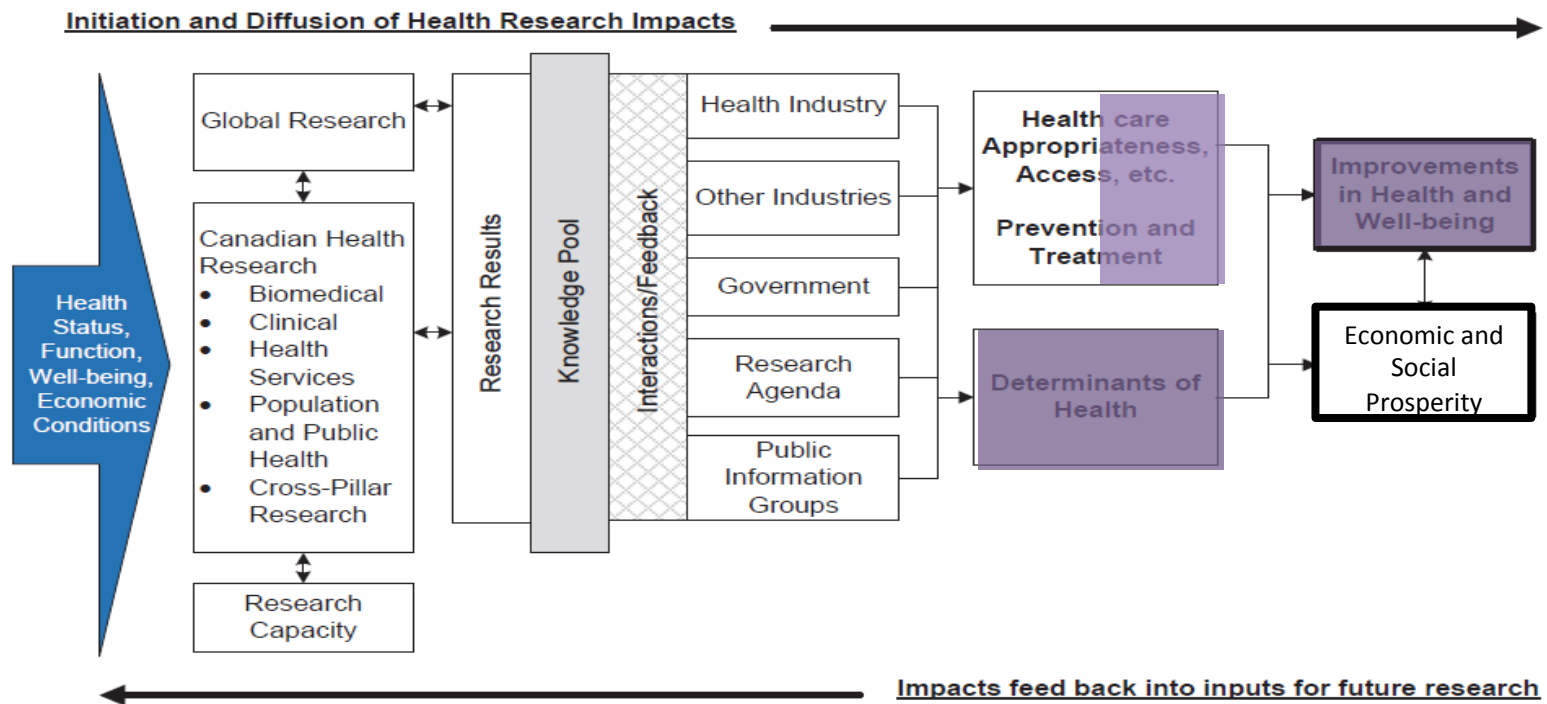
End-users reflected by 5 main stakeholder types.



# HEALTH IMPACTS

Health impacts lead to change(s) in health status, determinants of health, and the health system.

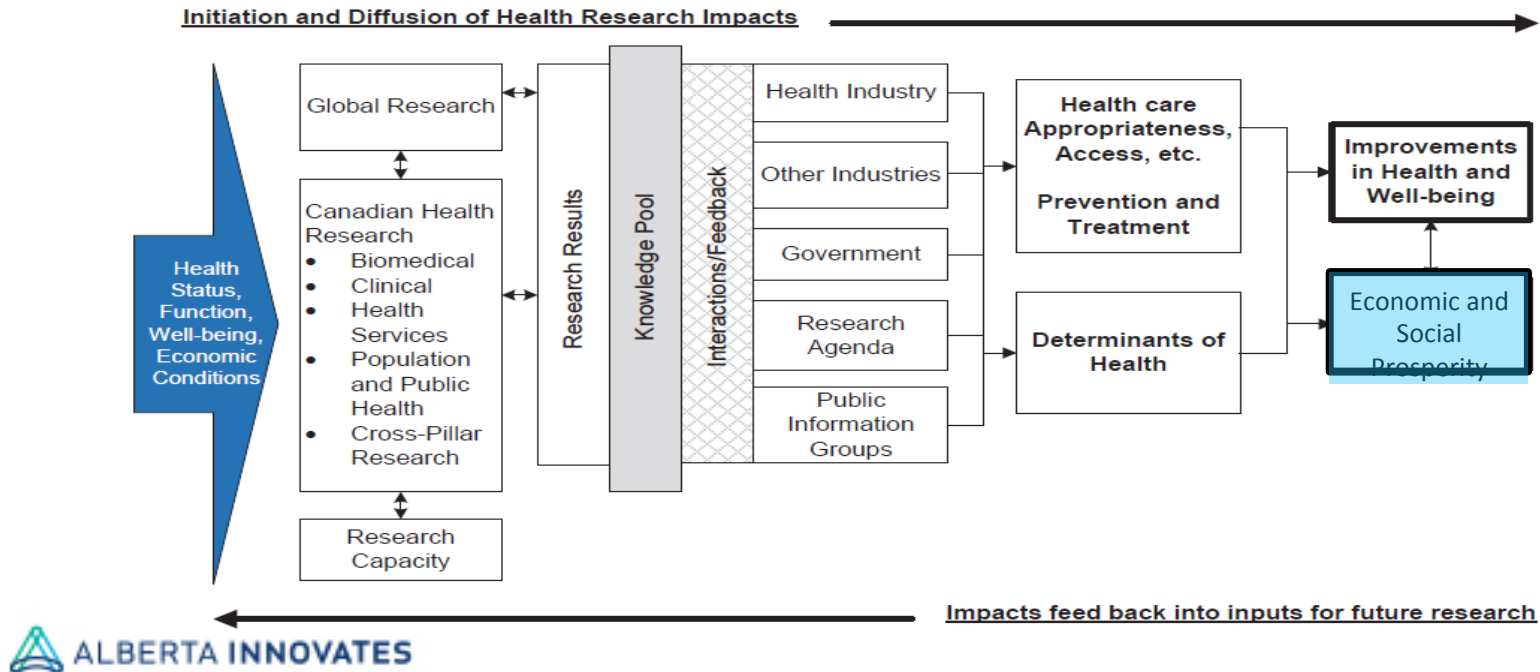
Quality of life is an important component of improved health.



# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

Broad benefits to the economy and to the well-being of the public.

Include economic activities and commercialization, individual well-being, and societal benefits of improved health.





# WHY USE THE CAHS IMPACT FRAMEWORK?

# PATHWAYS TO IMPACT

- Mechanism for linking research and innovation from initial context to broader impacts
- ‘How to’ guide for assessing impact
- Provides a common language & tools
  - Impact categories, sub-categories and indicators

# APPLICABILITY

- Compatible with what is already in place in Canada
- A systems model customizable on multiple levels
- Transferable to international comparisons

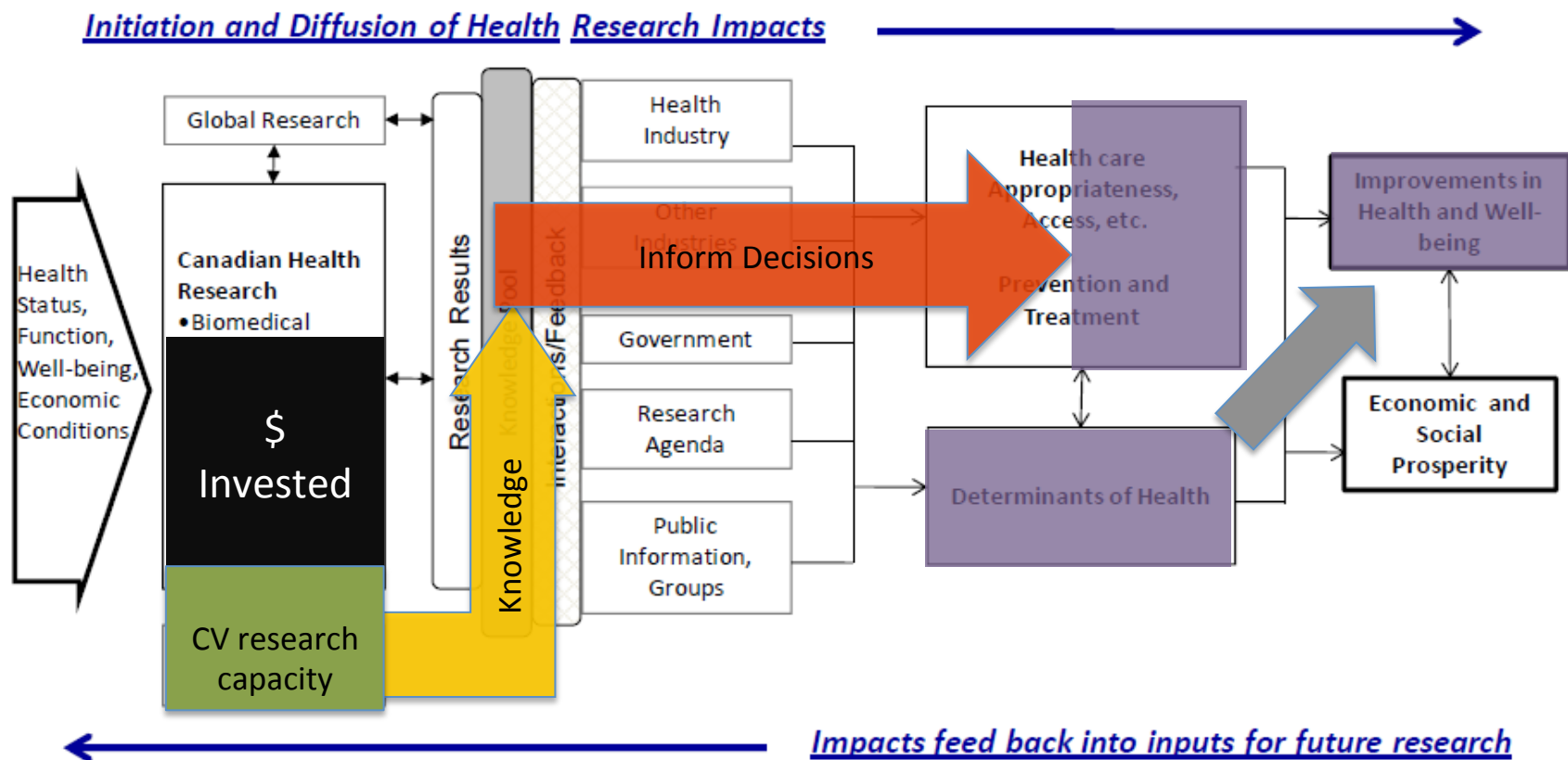


# USING THE FRAMEWORK

1. Define & prioritize the evaluation question(s)
2. Use the framework to determine where to look for impacts
  - Identify the pathway(s) that lead to the desired impact and where (progress to) impact can be measured
3. Based on the question, choose the impact categories (and subcategories) of interest
4. Choose appropriate sets of indicators

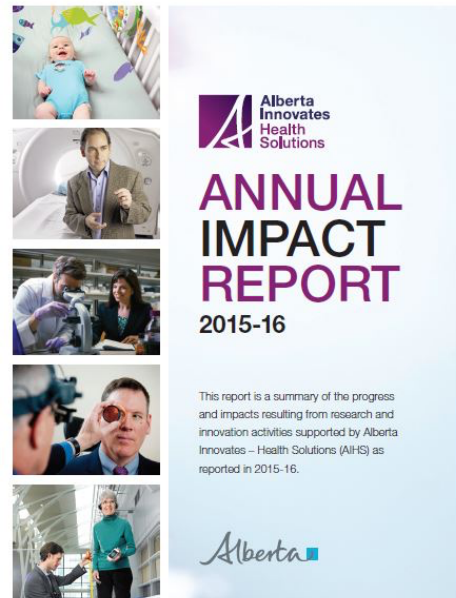
# GOVERNMENT: Are we achieving national health benefit from funding Canadian health research?

Specific question: How much health benefit per \$ invested in cardiovascular research?



# ALBERTA INNOVATES

- CAHS framework used with prospective & retrospective impact monitoring & assessment
  - Provides evidence of (progress to) impacts of health research investment in practice-based setting
  - International case study to improve knowledge translation of mental health research
  - Mapped impact data collection tool (Researchfish) to CAHS impact categories





# EXPERIENCES FROM REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS

*Practice Making Perfect: The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Impact Framework Forum*

- Applicable and adaptable to a variety of contexts
- Advances thinking beyond academic impacts to impacts on the ground
- ‘Pathways to impact’ help better align research activities with strategic plans and intended impacts
- Helps explain the process and impact of research and innovation to the lay public

- Generates evidence for informed policy and practice
- Impact categories provide a 'common language' that assist in:
  - More consistent and user-friendly reporting
  - Facilitating conversations and understanding of the needs and expectations of stakeholders
  - Developing common stakeholder agendas
  - Aligning measurement system



# APPLICABLE IN OTHER SECTORS

- The theory of change (logic) readily applies outside of health sector
- Majority of the impact categories are agnostic
- Through cross-sectoral collaboration, refine and expand the framework to reflect:
  - Other sectors
  - Cross-sectoral and broader impacts
  - Larger menu of preferred indicators (common and sector-specific)

- Capitalize on learned experiences through the (growing) community of practice



# RESOURCES

## CAHS Impact Framework

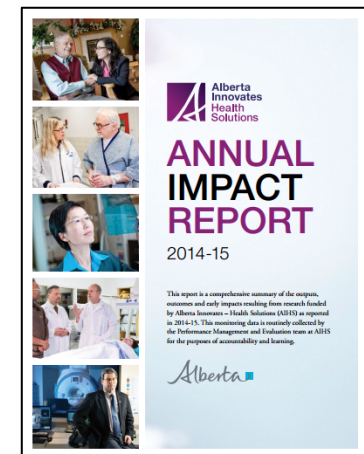
<http://cahs-acss.ca/making-an-impact/>


## Alberta Innovates

<http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/our-impact/assessing-research-impact/>

<http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/news-and-events/publications/cahs-impact-framework-forum-proceedings-report/>

<http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/our-impact/assessing-research-impact/aihs-annual-impact-report/>





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