



National Collaborating Centre  
for Methods and Tools

Centre de collaboration nationale  
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School of Nursing



# Engaging Citizen Partners Within a Rapid Review Process

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# The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools



- Facilitates and scales evidence-informed decision making in public health organizations
- Provides high-quality resources, real-world training and practical mentorship that respond to the evolving needs of public health
- Advances stronger public health, driven by the best-available evidence, to improve the health and well-being of every person living in Canada

# Background

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**Rapid evidence reviews** intend to provide **syntheses of best available** evidence as a basis for decision making



However, perspectives of **people who may be most affected** by the subsequent decisions are often **absent**



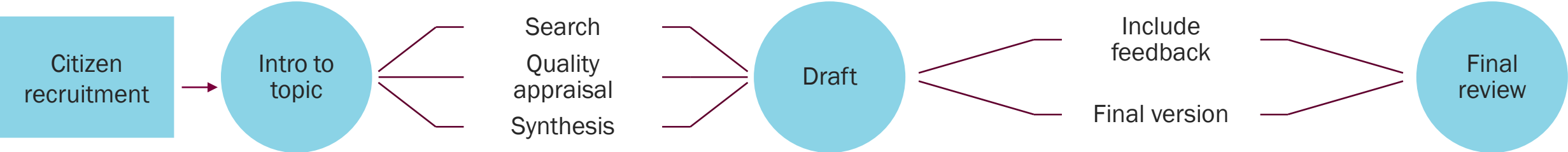
To improve relevance of rapid reviews, the **NCCMT's Rapid Evidence Service (RES)** invites **citizen partners with lived experience** to participate in the development of rapid evidence reviews



## Aims

- 1 Engage public partners in rapid review process
- 2 Improve the relevance and applicability of reviews, and help interpret and contextualize research evidence

# Methods



# Results

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Engaged **21** citizen  
partners



Across **16** rapid  
reviews

- Citizen partner perspectives sought when framing questions, and interpreting and contextualizing findings, bringing unique perspectives that improve relevance
- Perspectives represented in the final report as part of the summary of findings or pulled out into a separate report

# Limitations

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Tight timelines of the rapid review process ~~limited~~ time to build relationships and train researchers and citizen partners on meaningfully collaborating and participating



Finding citizen partners with the experience and background needed for a specific review can be challenging



If no citizen partner meets criteria for inclusion, citizen perspectives cannot be integrated into that rapid review



**Strategies to combat limitations:** agreeing on roles and responsibilities from the onset, offering training and resources for researchers and citizen partners ahead of time and recruiting through multiple channels

# Conclusions

- 1 Rapid reviews benefit from involvement of people with lived experience throughout the evidence synthesis process
- 2 The NCCMT's RES engagement with citizen partners addresses a significant gap in the evidence synthesis and decision-making process





# Conclusions

- 3 Citizen partners provide valuable insights into gaps in the existing research and the implications of the findings
- 4 The standard rapid review protocol for the NCCMT's RES now includes a public engagement process





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# Thank You!

## RES Team

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