

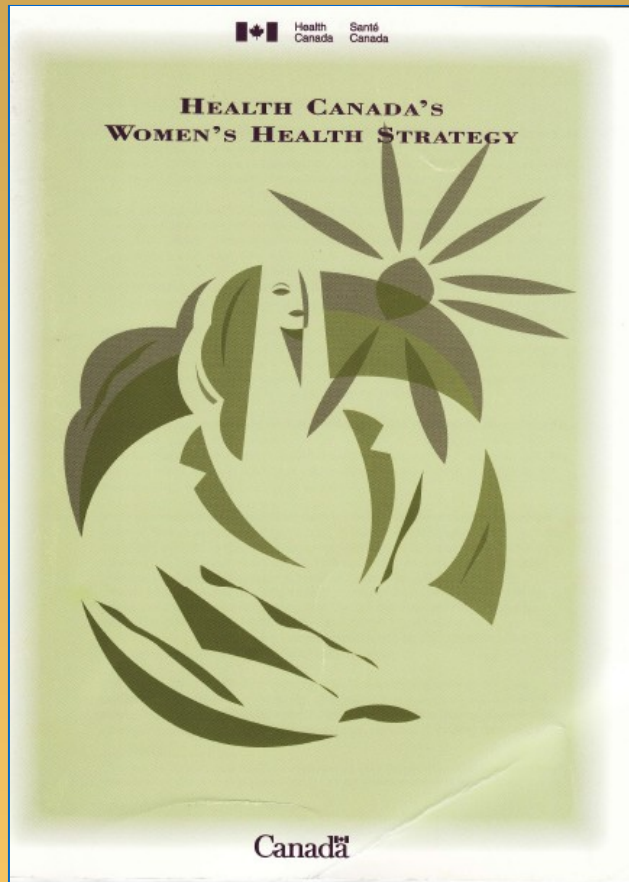
**When the Ink is Dry:  
Perspectives on Women's Health  
Strategies in Canada**

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6<sup>th</sup> Australian Women's Health Conference  
Hobart, Tasmania  
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# Health Canada's Women's Health Strategy 1999



1. Ensure that Health Canada's policies and programs are responsive to sex and gender differences and to women's health needs.
2. Increase knowledge and understanding of women's health and women's health needs.
3. Support the provision of effective health services to women.
4. Promote good health through preventive measures and the reduction of risk factors that most imperil the health of women.

# Objective 2

Increase knowledge and understanding of women's health and women's health needs.

- Centres of Excellence for Women's Health ✓
- Research on health care reforms ✓
- Federal women's health research plan
- Canadian Women's Health Network ✓
- Canada-US clearinghouse
- Comprehensive indicators (health report every 4 years)
- Women in Clinical Trials policy ✓
- Research on violence
- Research on nursing ✓
- Other research agencies have priority of women's health
- In-depth research on priority issues
- Research on alternative therapies ✓
- Gender in Centres for Child Health

# The Women's Health Bureau: A revolving door



# Support for Women's Health Research

## Health Canada funding

- BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
- Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence
- National Network of Environments and Women's Health
- Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
- Women and Health Care Reform
- Women and Health Protection
- Canadian Women's Health Network

## Canadian Institutes of Health Research

- Institute of Gender and Health



# Objective 1

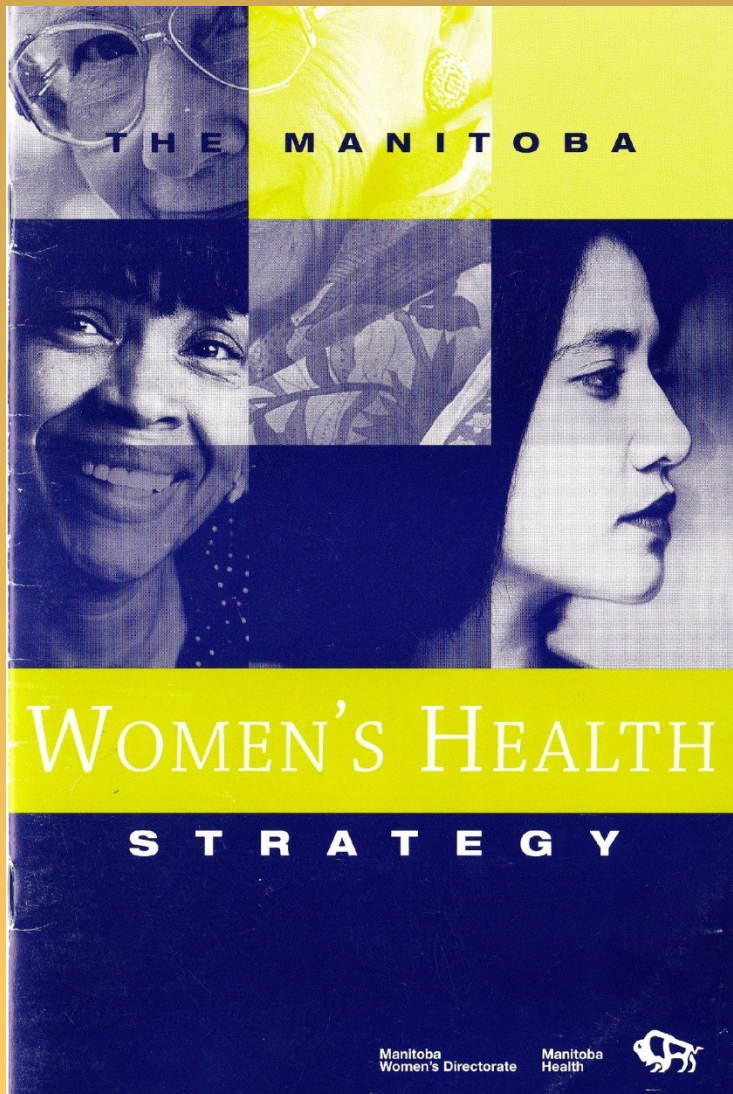
Policies & programs responsive to sex & gender differences & to women's health needs.

- Standard practice to apply GBA
- Tools & training to implement GBA ✓
- Women's health in annual planning ✓
- Gender perspective on ethical issues
- Gender considerations required in proposals
- Advisory boards have GBA knowledge and equal representation
- Consultation with women's agencies on key policy files
- Inter-departmental collaboration on issues
- Gender considerations of policies, programs for children
- Gender considerations of aging files
- Gender analysis of legal work

# Objectives 3 and 4

3. Support the provision of effective health services to women.
4. Promote good health through preventive measures and the reduction of risk factors that most imperil the health of women.

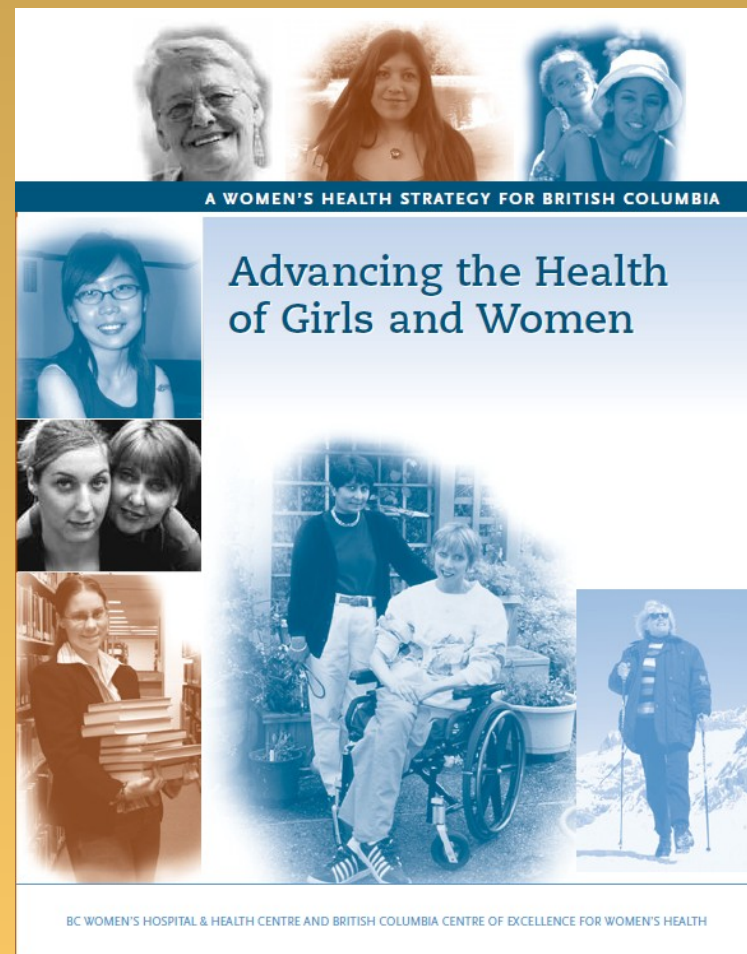
# The Manitoba Women's Health Strategy



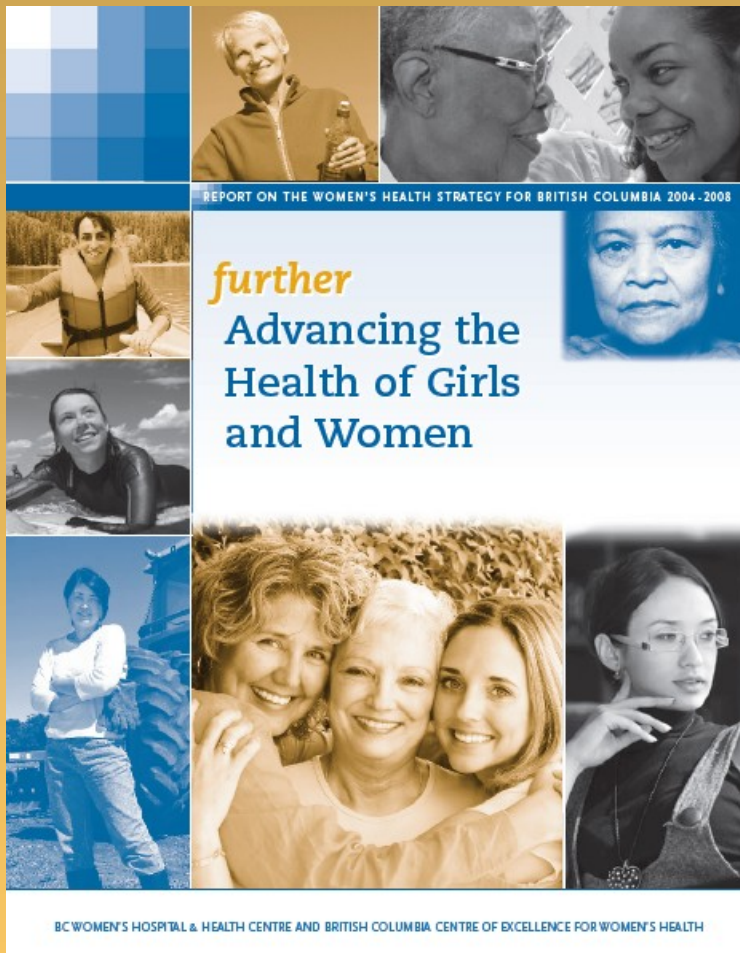


# British Columbia's Women's Health Strategy

- Deputy Minister was a supporter of women's health
- Three-way partnership though eventually ran afoul of the public affairs bureau
- Framed as both inspiration and education



# Reviewing the Women's Health Strategy in BC



- Interim report to assess impact & maintain momentum
- Strategy used to:
  - Legitimize action on women's health
  - Inspire competition among leaders
  - Rationalize priority setting
  - Generate local action plans and information

# Evidence & Priorities

- How does evidence inform women's health strategies?
- How are priorities established?
- Who gets to decide?

# Renewing BC's Strategy?

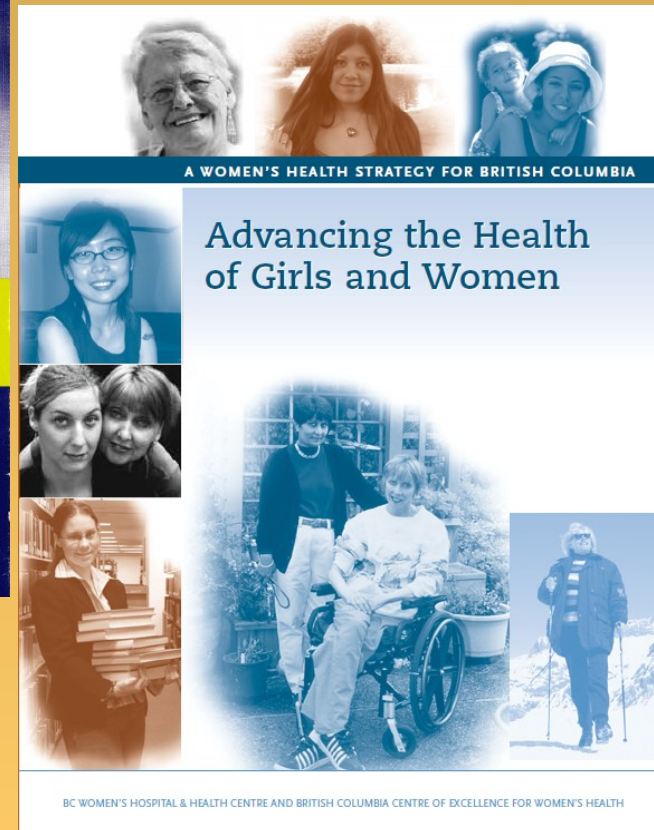
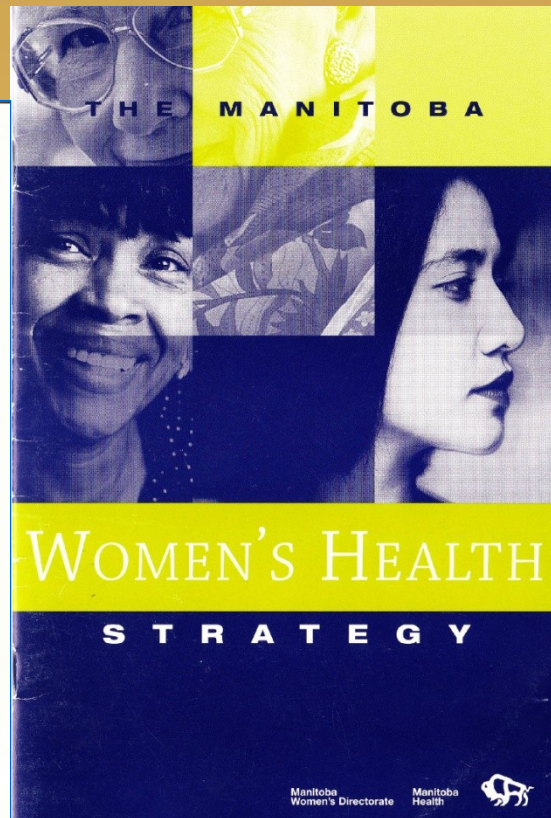
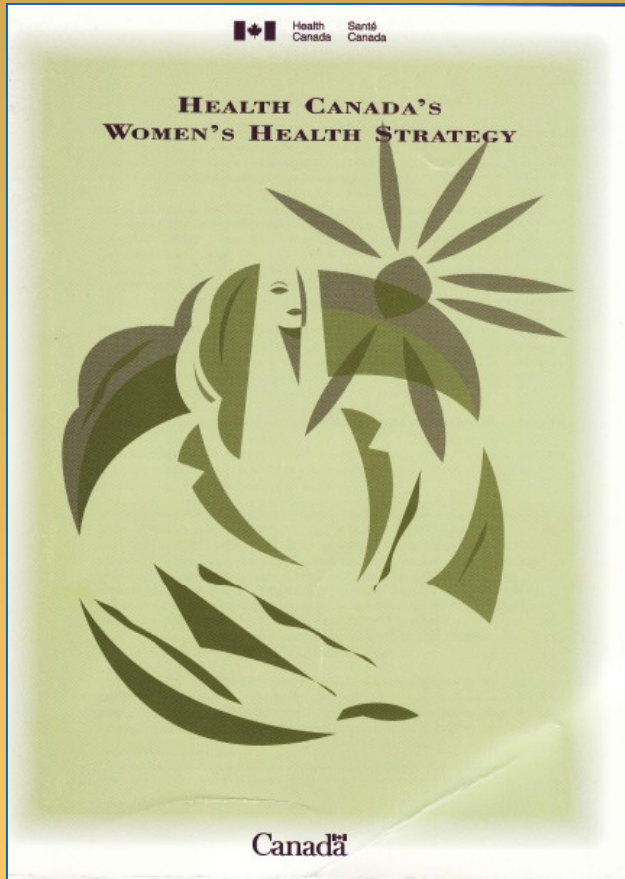
## Challenges

- Division of Ministry of Health into two
- Weak Minister overshadowed by strong Minister
- No funding for research, consultation, printing or production

## Opportunities

- New leadership at Women's hospital
- Support for women's health in PHSA
- Partnership between Women's, BCCEWH and MHLS

# Once the Ink is Dry



STFU



Senator Nancy Ruth

# Thank you!

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