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# Joint Federal Research Funding for Military Personnel and Veterans

## Project Report Summary Template

| **Funding Opportunity**<br>Systematic Review Exploring the Possible Effects of Military Occupational Exposures on Reproductive Health |
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| **Brief Overview** |
| A scoping review of reproductive health among military women and gender-diverse members in the Canadian Armed Forces and allied Five Eyes militaries. The review synthesized evidence on occupational, environmental, psychosocial, institutional, and cultural factors affecting reproductive health and identified policy, practice, and research priorities for Canada. |
| **What is this Research About?**<br>The research examined how military service, deployments, workplace conditions, organizational culture, policies, and healthcare systems influence reproductive health outcomes and access to care. It also assessed the applicability of international evidence to the Canadian Armed Forces context. |
| **What did the Research Do?**<br>Researchers conducted a scoping review of 113 studies identified from approximately 8,954 records. Evidence from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand was systematically reviewed and synthesized to address five key research questions related to reproductive health outcomes, occupational exposures, structural determinants, evidence gaps, and policy implications. |
| **What did the Research Find?**<br>The review found that reproductive health outcomes are influenced by both clinical and structural factors. Major themes included military culture as a barrier to reproductive health, command structures affecting access to care, policy and access gaps, intersecting identities creating inequities, military sexual trauma as a key determinant, and insufficient support for veterans. Significant evidence gaps were identified, particularly for Canadian-specific data, marginalized populations, long-term outcomes, and post-service reproductive health. |
| **What does this Research Mean?**<br>The findings demonstrate that reproductive health in military populations is not solely a clinical issue but also a structural and institutional one. Improving outcomes will require reforms in military culture, leadership, policies, healthcare delivery, surveillance, and research. The review provides a foundation for evidence-based decision-making and a future Canadian research agenda focused on reproductive health within the CAF. |
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