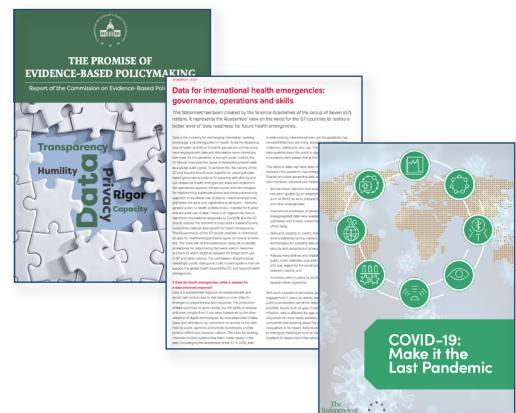
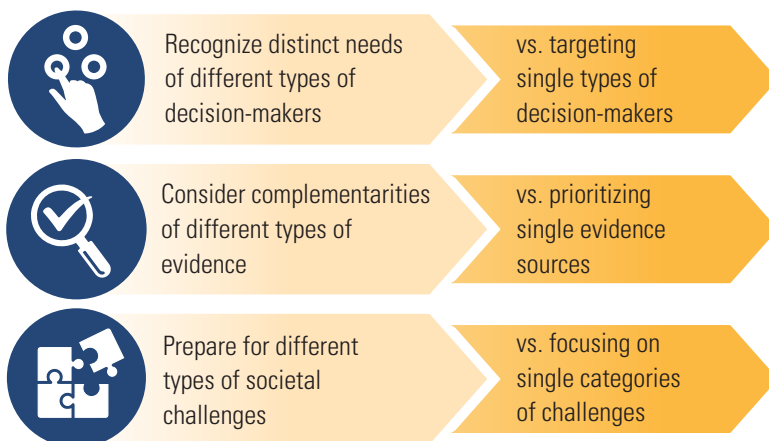


## Why now?

- COVID-19 has created a once-in-a-generation focus on evidence among governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations, many types of professionals, and citizens
- Their decisions have shaped the pandemic response and will shape responses to future societal challenges
- The pandemic has fast-tracked collaboration among decision-makers and researchers, but drawing from a range of types of evidence to inform decision-making is not yet routine

Our independent panel of commissioners will produce a report with recommendations for ways to better meet the evidence needs of decision-makers in routine times and in future global crises

## How will the Evidence Commission build on and complement past work?



Our audience is people who make or can influence decisions about whether and how evidence is used to address societal challenges

The Evidence Commission will consider many types of *challenges*, *decisions* and *evidence*.

## Challenges

Domestic sectoral	Domestic cross-sectoral	Global coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health systems failing to improve health outcomes and care experiences</li> <li>Schools struggling with virtual instruction</li> <li>Declining living standards</li> <li>Terrorism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antimicrobial resistance</li> <li>Gender-based violence</li> <li>Growing levels of inequality</li> <li>Lack of trust in institutions</li> <li>Missed targets for the Sustainable Development Goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inequitable patterns in COVID-19 vaccination</li> <li>Climate change</li> </ul>

## Decisions



### Government policymakers

Need to be convinced there's a compelling problem, a viable policy and conducive politics



### Organizational leaders

(e.g., business and non-governmental organization leaders)

Need a business case to offer goods and services



### Professionals

(e.g., doctors, engineers, police officers, social workers and teachers)

Need the opportunity, motivation and capability to make a professional decision or to work with individual clients to make shared decisions

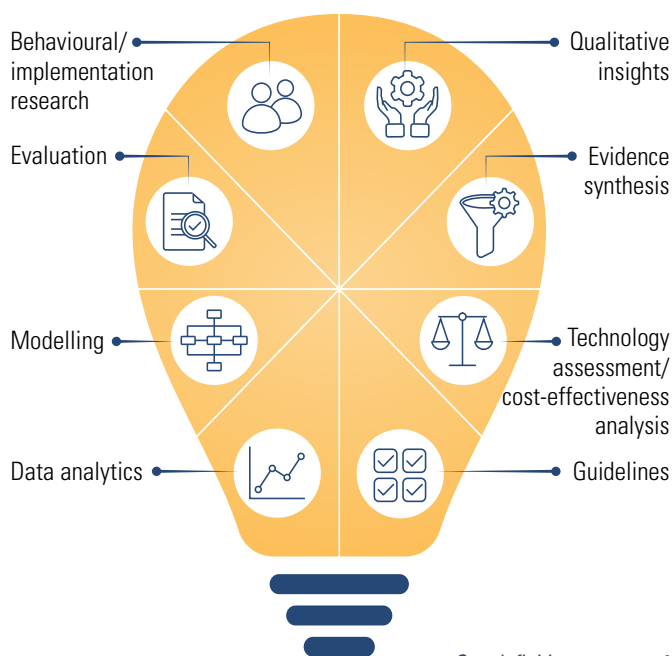


### Citizens

(e.g., patients, service users, voters and community leaders)

Need the opportunity, motivation and capability to make a personal decision, take local action or build a social movement

## Evidence



See definitions on page 4

Our report will be built around key exhibits that build momentum for action—and we need your input.

[Visit our website](#) or [subscribe to our newsletter](#) to learn more.

## Armed with the world's best evidence, decision-makers can more effectively respond to societal challenges

The Evidence Commission is supported by the secretariat for the COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision-making (COVID-END), a network co-led by the McMaster Health Forum and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, and the world's most trusted source of best evidence about the COVID-19 response.

However, the Evidence Commission's focus extends beyond COVID-19 (and health) to all societal challenges.

## Timeline at-a-glance









The active period of the Evidence Commission takes place between July to December 2021, with occasional touchpoints through 2022.

	Milestone	Date
Deliberation & shaping the report	Commissioner onboarding meetings to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish terms of reference and formalize workplan<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Prioritize topics for analyses, interviews and evidence syntheses</li> <li>Deliberate on first round of exhibits (infographics, tables and text boxes)<sup>2</sup> and ideas for pathways to influence (advisors and events)</li> </ul>	<b>July - August 2021</b>
	Deliberate on second round of exhibits	<b>August 2021</b>
	Deliberate on third round of exhibits	<b>September 2021</b>
	[Optional] 'Cochrane convenes' and other events to gather stakeholder feedback on key messages	<b>October 2021</b>
	Meeting to review full draft report and recommendations	<b>October 2021</b>
	Meeting to review penultimate version of final report and recommendations	<b>November 2021</b>
Dissemination & implementation	Publish final report in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)	<b>December 2021</b>
	Pursue pathways to influence, such as <sup>3</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Profiling key messages at or alongside global meetings (e.g., G7, G20 and World Health Assembly)</li> <li>Liaise with groups that are well-positioned to identify and support the achievement of future milestones</li> <li>Reporting progress after one and three years</li> </ul>	<b>January - June 2022</b>

1. The small, agile secretariat supporting the Evidence Commission will identify further inputs (i.e., stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships) and outputs (i.e., releasing exhibits publicly via the Evidence Commission's website and social channels)
2. Exhibits (infographics, tables and text boxes) will be circulated for deliberation, seeking a balance of opinions to inform chapter drafts and revisions
3. Further pathways of influence will be identified

## Getting the right evidence to the right decision-makers in the right way

We use the term 'evidence' as a short form for 'research evidence,' recognizing that there are many other types of evidence (e.g., evidence that individuals themselves derive from their own lived experiences) and that evidence is one of many factors that can influence a decision. Evidence can help in any of four steps in a decision-making process: 1) understanding a problem and its causes; 2) selecting an option for addressing the problem; 3) identifying implementation considerations; or 4) monitoring implementation and evaluating impacts. Combining local evidence with syntheses of the best evidence globally can add value in different steps.

Form of evidence	Working definitions and applications
 <b>Data analytics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic analysis of raw data in order to make conclusions about that information</li> <li>• Adds greatest value in steps 1 (problem clarification) and 4 (monitoring and evaluation)</li> </ul>
 <b>Modelling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of mathematical equations to simulate real-world scenarios (i.e., what is likely to happen if we don't intervene) and options (i.e., what happens if we intervene) in a virtual environment</li> <li>• Adds greatest value in steps 1 (problem clarification) and 2 (option selection)</li> </ul>
 <b>Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic assessment of the implementation (monitoring) and impacts (evaluation) of an initiative for the purposes of learning or decision-making</li> <li>• Adds greatest value in step 4 (monitoring and evaluation)</li> </ul>
 <b>Behavioural / implementation research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of effective approaches into routine practices at the personal, professional, organization and government levels (implementation research)</li> <li>• Systematic examination of what people (citizens and professionals) do, what drives them to do it, and what can sustain or change what they do (behavioural research)</li> <li>• Adds greatest value in step 3 (implementation considerations)</li> </ul>
 <b>Qualitative insights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of (typically non-numerical) data obtained from interviews, focus groups, open-ended questionnaires, first-hand observation, participant-observation, recordings made in natural settings, documents, and artifacts.</li> <li>• Adds value in all steps by helping to understand how individuals and groups view and experience problems, options, implementation considerations (barriers, facilitators and strategies), and metrics</li> </ul>
 <b>Evidence synthesis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic process of identifying, selecting, appraising and synthesizing the findings from all studies that have addressed the same question in order to arrive at an overall understanding of what is known, including how this may vary by groups (i.e., racialized communities) and contexts (i.e., low socio-economic neighbourhoods)</li> <li>• Adds greatest value in step 2 (option selection) but can also be applied in the three other steps</li> </ul>
 <b>Technology assessment/ cost-effectiveness analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of all relevant aspects of a 'technology,' including safety, effectiveness, and economic, social and ethical implications (technology assessment), with an evidence synthesis often contributing to the assessment of effectiveness</li> <li>• Comparison of the relative outcomes (effectiveness) and costs of two or more options, again with an evidence synthesis often contributing to the assessment of effectiveness</li> <li>• Adds greatest value in step 2 (option selection) and can inform steps 3 and 4</li> </ul>
 <b>Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematically developed statements that recommend a particular course of action, often for citizens and professional and sometimes for organizations and governments, with one or more evidence syntheses contributing to the assessment of effectiveness, values and preferences, and other factors</li> <li>• Adds greatest value in step 2 (option selection)</li> </ul>