



Towards Collaborative Agenda Setting for HHR Research: Lessons from CPRN

Building a HHR Research and KT Agenda
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Presentation Outline

- What's a CPRN?
- Challenges for Researchers, Policy-makers & Funders
- Building Effective Research Collaborations: Lessons from CPRN
- The Basis for New Approach to HHR Research
- Meeting the KT Challenge
- Broadening the HHR Research Agenda: New Actors, New Partners



What's a CPRN?

- CPRN is an independent think tank committed to policy-relevant research and dialogue with governments, stakeholders and citizens
- Established in 1994, our mission is to create knowledge and lead public dialogue on social and economic issues important to the well-being of all Canadians
- We involve policy-makers, stakeholders & citizens in all aspects of our research from design through to dissemination



Challenges for Researchers

- Researchers often express suspicion of the motives of policy-makers
 - Often misunderstand the policy process inside governments
- Academic reward systems privilege some kinds of research over others
 - Time & energy devoted to collaboration with communities, policy-makers & others often not recognized by universities



Challenges for Policy-Makers

- Lack of internal policy capacity
- Difficulty looking at medium- to long-term objectives
 - Too focused on today's problems & today's crisis
 - Want work yesterday
- Difficulty in letting go of policy process & allowing others inside
 - Decision based evidence...
- Cumbersome procedures for flowing funds



Challenges for Funders

- Funding organizations encourage partnerships & collaboration in research design, BUT
 - Do not fund the time and effort it takes to build real partnerships
 - Letters of Support are not enough
- Collaboration with communities & non-gov't actors takes time and effort from them
 - This goes unrewarded & unfunded
 - Resource intensive for small organizations



Building Effective Research Collaborations

- Gov't & stakeholder dialogue to set a mutually agreed upon agenda
- Independent research on medium- to longer-term issues (staying ahead of the curve)
- Multiple funding partners
- Research papers are independently peer-reviewed



Building Effective Research Collaborations

- Research identifies options rooted in both traditional research methodologies and dialogues with citizens
- Policy roundtables create neutral space
- Free broad-based dissemination
 - Available to non-funders
 - Creation of a public good
 - Further dialogue and reflection, without having to commit to specific action plan



Basis for a “New” Approach to HHR Research

- Governments must:
 - look forward & let go
- Researchers must:
 - recognize gov’t & stakeholders as legitimate partners
- Funders:
 - push for real partnerships and collaboration by rewarding them
- Universities:
 - reward collaboration in real terms



Meeting the KT Challenge

- What are the KT barriers?
- In truly collaborative research, KT becomes part of the research process
 - Everyone sets the agenda & research questions
 - Everyone participates in the research
 - Everyone understands & shares results
- Less gets lost in translation
- Knowledge goes beyond the funding partners
 - Creating a “public good”



New HHR Research: New Actors, New Partners

- Integrating a Population Health perspective
- Seeing Public Health HR as part of the system
- Aboriginal Populations
- Aboriginal HHR





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