



Building Policy Capacity in Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador Conference
on Public Policy: Making Connections –
Building Capacity

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Canadian Policy Research Networks



Objectives

- Share knowledge of policy research process
- Describe the current policy research climate
- Encourage the development of the Newfoundland Labrador Policy Network - NLPN
- Identify opportunities to build horizontal policy capacity



Agenda

- Introduce CPRN and how we do policy research
- Context for policy research in Canada
- Outline approaches for policy research in Newfoundland and Labrador



Who We Are

- Canadian Policy Research Networks is a national think tank dedicated to making Canada a more just, prosperous and caring society.



What We Do

- We create leading-edge, high quality, objective socio-economic policy research.



How We Do It

- Unique in that we are independent, neutral, non-partisan and evidence-based.
- Engage in deliberative dialogues with Canadians to determine the kind of Canada we want.



CPRN Connects Research to Emerging Issues

- Demographic shift – skill shortages, fertility issues, retirement.
- Governance and accountability/ democratic renewal.
- Place-based approaches to socio-economic problems.



Challenges for Policy: Demographics

- Dependency ratios in Canada:
 - In 2005, five working age people for every person 65+
 - By 2025, three working for every person 65+
- Median age of Canadians at nearly 39 years
- By 2025, 20% of Canadians will be 65+
- Canadians retiring at a younger age:
 - 65 in 1976; 61 in 2005
 - may be reversing



Why It Is Important

- Canadians use our material – 1.7 million downloads of our research material in the past year.
- Research is developed through engagement with stakeholders – decision-makers and the public.
- Practical and important issues tackled.



CPRN Current Research Agenda

- Labour Market
- Skills Development
- Post-Secondary Education
- Citizenship and Civic Engagement
- Health & HR Planning
- Health System Reform
- Health Equity Issues
- Job Quality
- Vulnerable Workers
- Managing Diversity
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Governance and Accountability



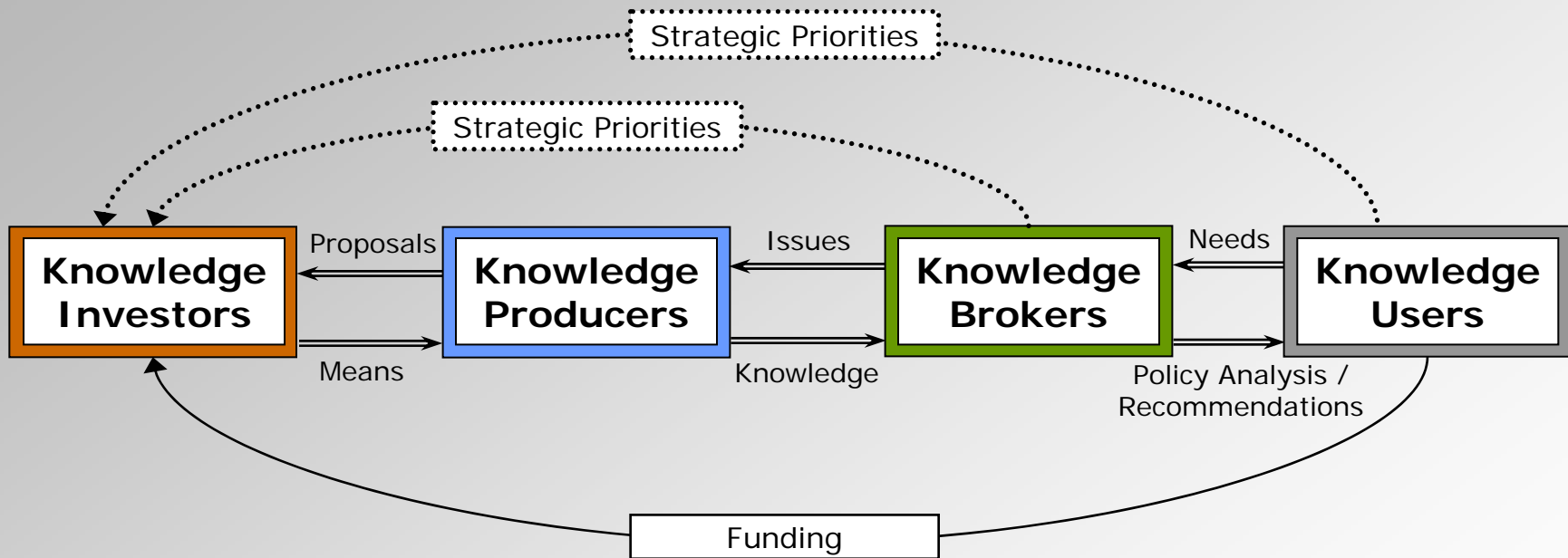
Black Box of Policy Development

- Knowledge Investors
- Knowledge Producers
- Knowledge Brokers
- Knowledge Users



The Role of Knowledge in Policy Development

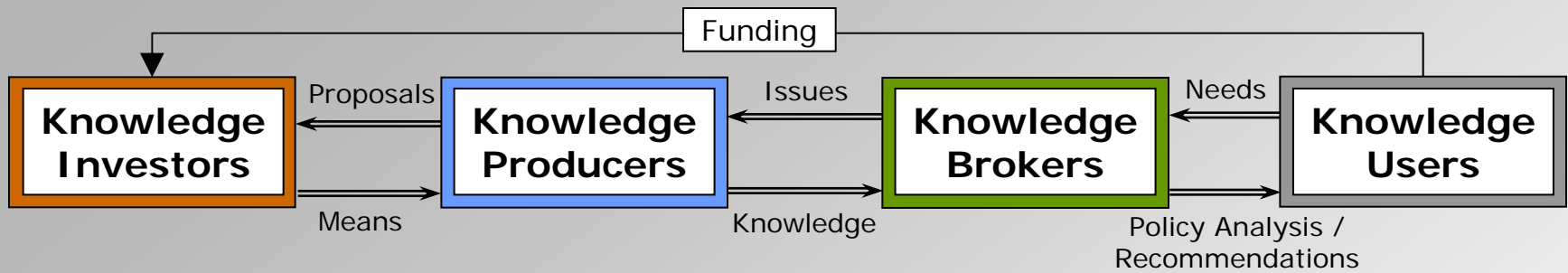
(The Current System)



Thanks to Evert Lindquist, University of Victoria for Slides 12 - 14

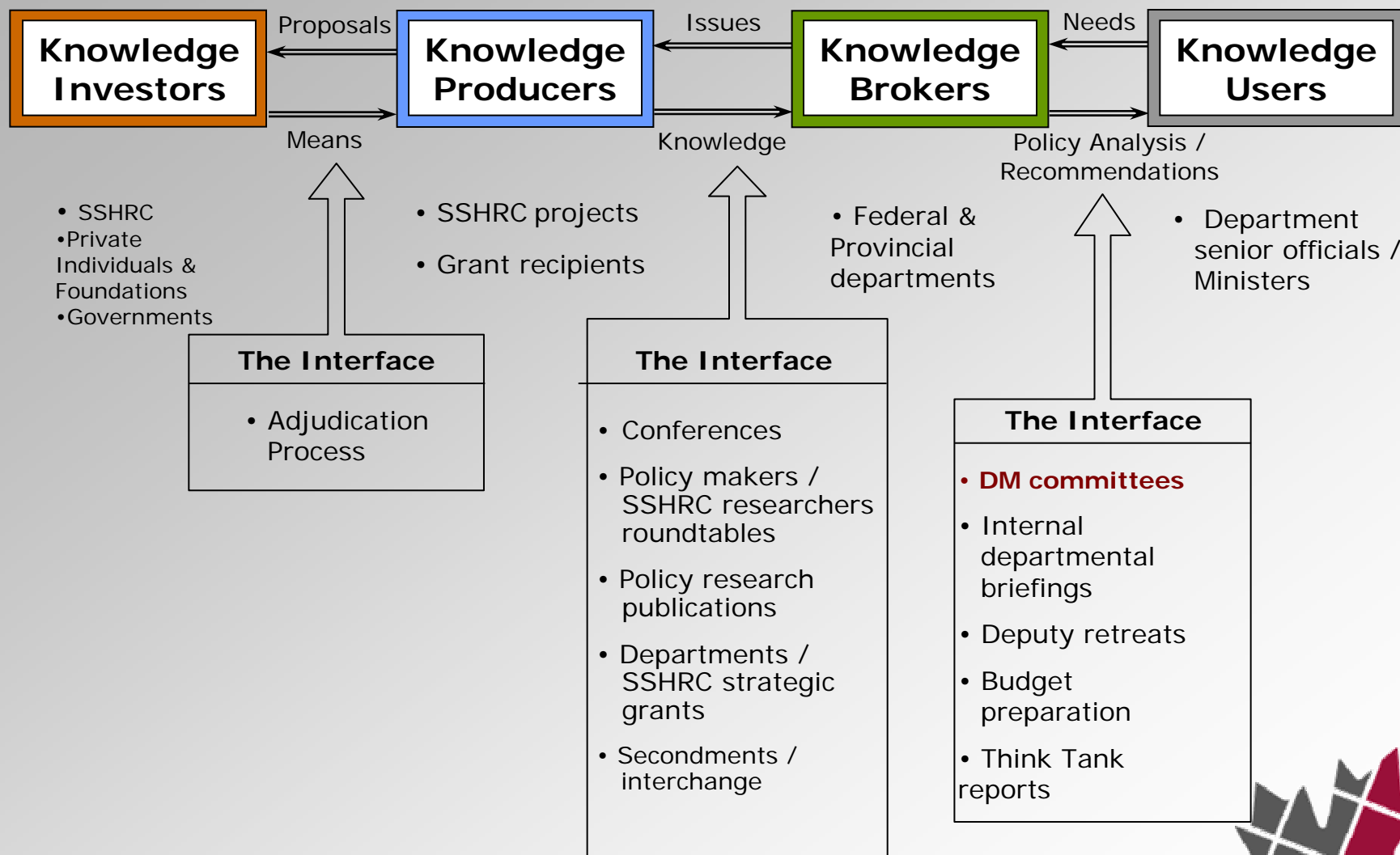


The Role of Knowledge in Policy Development



	Knowledge Investors	Knowledge Producers	Knowledge Brokers	Knowledge Users
PRODUCTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Contracts Contributions Core Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concepts Data Trends identification Analysis Empirical evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem / Issue formulation Synthesis / Decks Interpretation / Recommendations Publications Policy frameworks Learning events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic policy direction Budget New legislation Policy formulation / Program design
ACTORS	Internal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departmental bases Granting agencies (e.g. SSHRC, CIHR, CFI) Foundations Budget allocations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department's policy research branches Statistics Canada Federal intermediaries (e.g. CCL) Provincial intermediaries (e.g. Network for NL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department's policy research branches Metropolis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament Cabinet / Ministers Senior government officials Policy designers
	External <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private foundations Private donations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academia Canada Research Chairs Think Tanks (e.g. CD Howe, IRPP, SRDC, CPRN) International organisations (e.g. OECD, ILO, UN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media NGOs / Advocates Think Tanks Private consultants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other governments NGOS / Advocates General public

Linking Research to Policy Development



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Current Policy Research Climate

- Systematic reduction over the last decade of investment in policy capacity
- Clustering research monies to favour existing research themes
- Development of specialist expertise at the expense of generalist knowledge – silos
- Loss of capacity and receptor capacity



Current Policy Research in Canada - continued

- Contrast investment in policy research against the growing recognition of the inter-connectedness of policy issues
- Coastal fisheries loss is not just a loss of fish – it is a loss of culture and community



External Sources of Policy Research

- Reduction in the overall funding for think tanks in Canada
- University funders focus on major research initiatives which favour existing research themes
- Policy or applied research undervalued in the university rewards system
- Opportunity to build policy research skills limited



New Approaches

- Absent a million dollars ...
- Reach out to one another
- Support the development of the next generation
- Deliberately convene working groups that reach across boundaries – sectoral and disciplinary
- Commit to sharing knowledge with one another



New Approaches Continued

- Advantages of the Newfoundland policy community
 - Actors are known to one another
 - Access is easier
 - You will continue to know each other
 - Opportunity for shared vision across sectors
 - Policy issues have greater local imperative when your neighbours are directly affected
 - History of doing more with less



Building Policy Capacity for Newfoundland Labrador

- Research - opportunity to work together to define policy issues.
- Policy - identification of policy relevant approaches.
- Citizen Engagement - ability to work together to engage the public to discover winning solutions.
- Transfer Knowledge about Policy Problems and Solutions – government, public, stakeholders.





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