

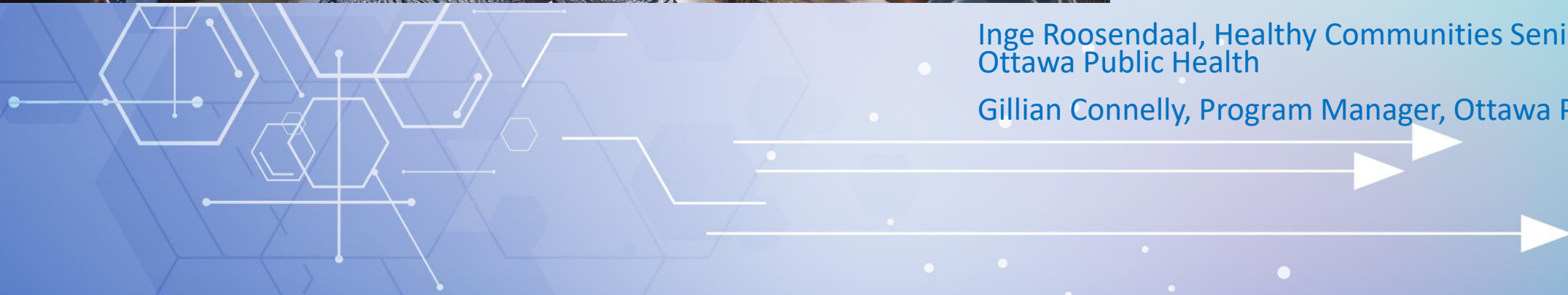


Collaboratively Drawing Elephants to Build Healthy Communities



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Ottawa Public Health's Strategic Goal : Create Conditions to Live Well and Thrive

- Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has been seeking to meaningfully impact City Planning decisions for a decade.
- City of Ottawa's new Official Plan was a key leverage point for promoting health and well-being. OPH worked alongside the Planning department in its development.



Official Plan

Healthy Public Policy Competencies:



Partnership &
collaboration



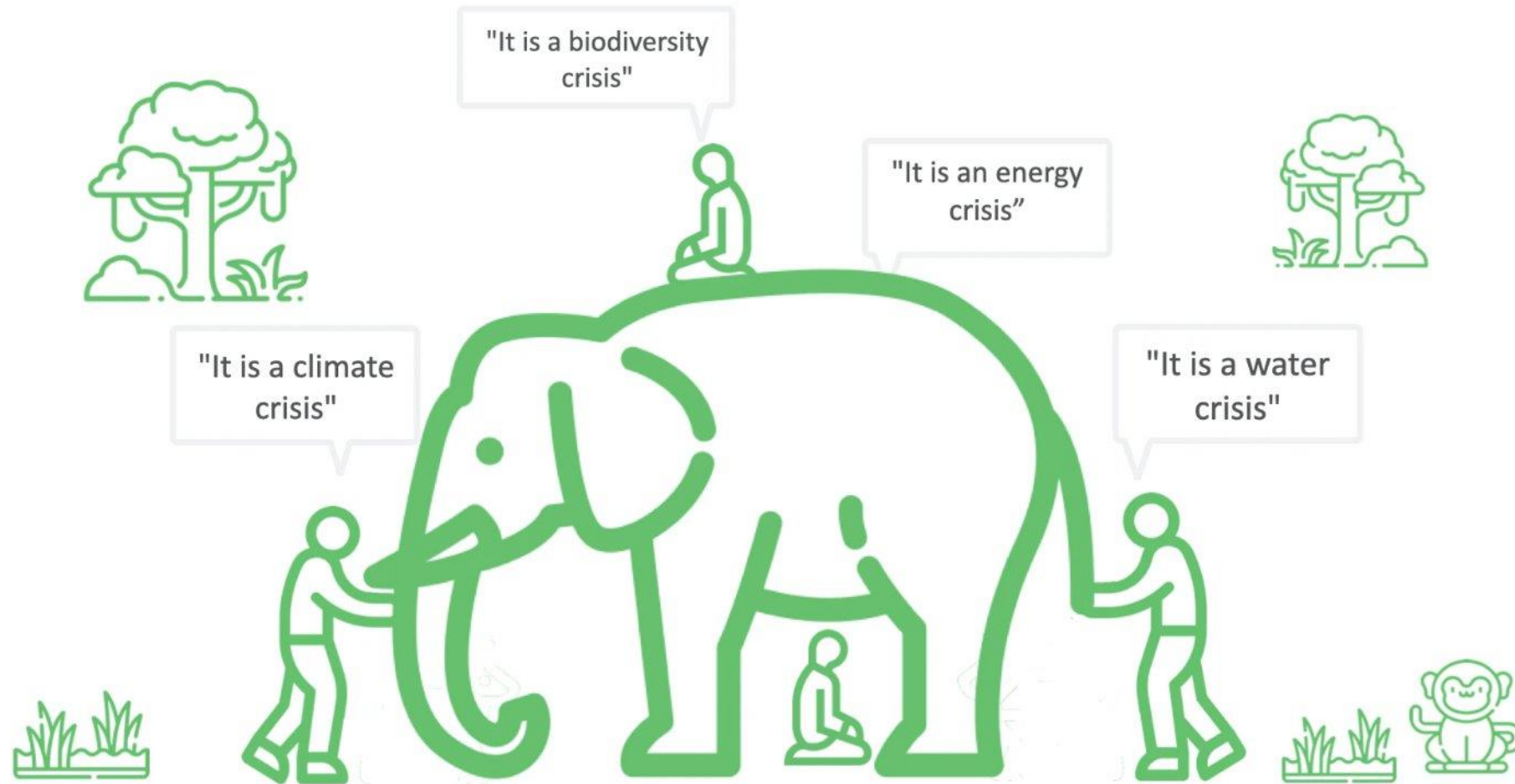
Influence



Policy context



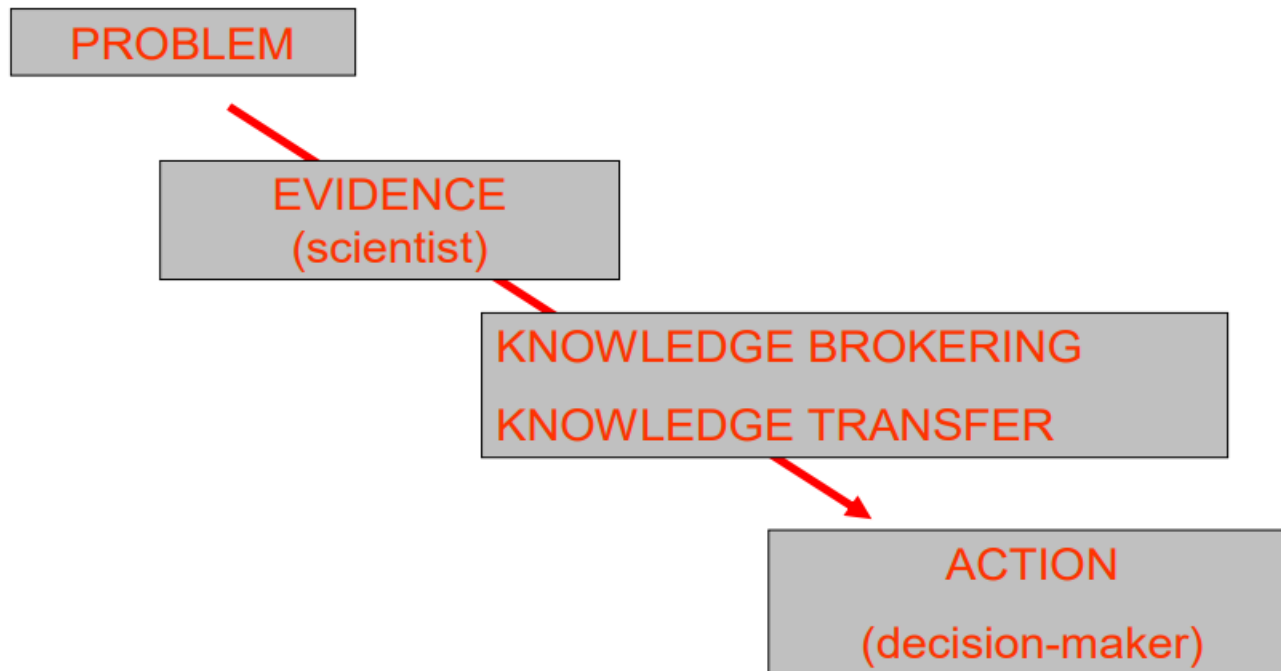
Wicked Problems: dealing with complexity



<https://www.systemsinnovation.network/discovery>

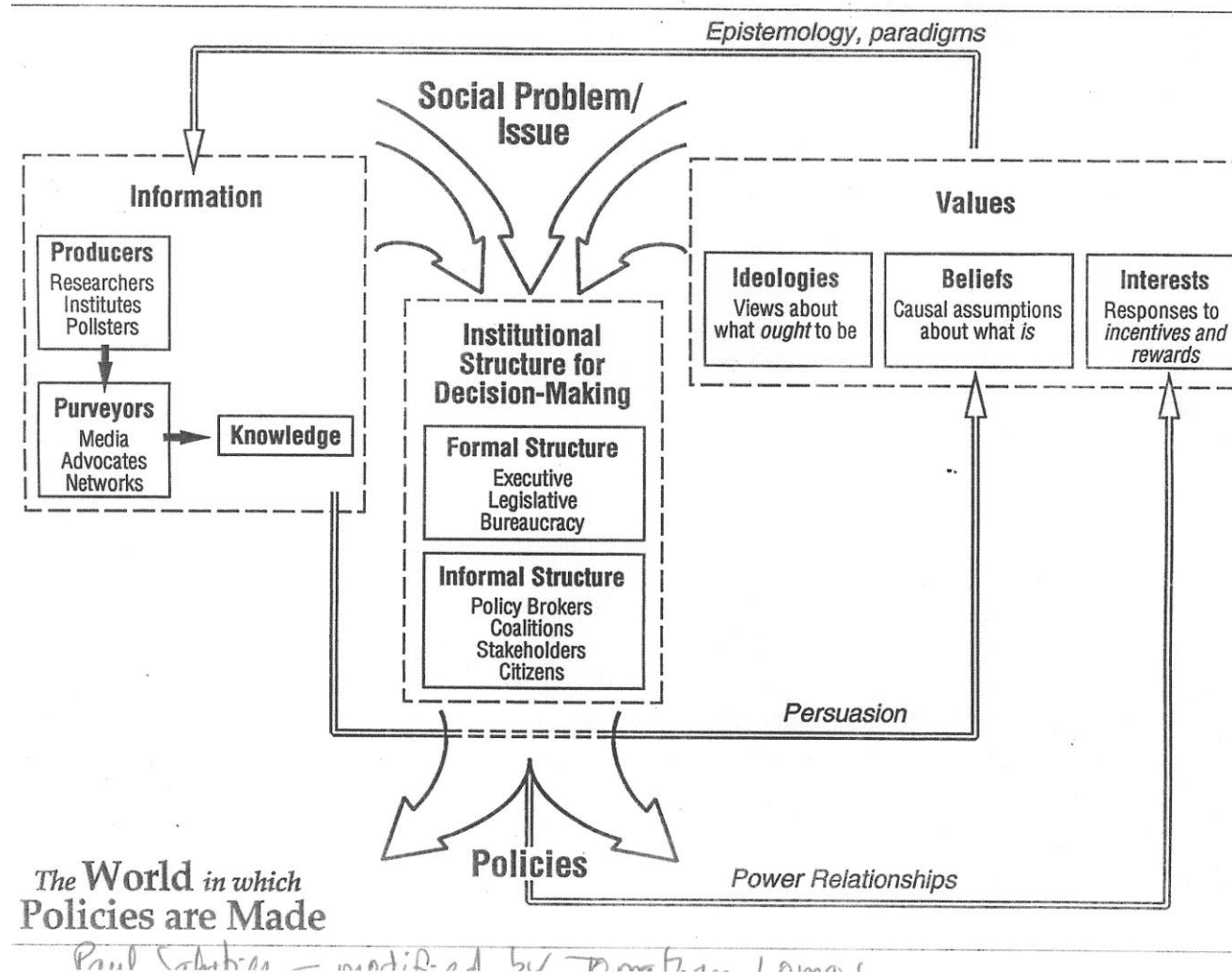
Evidence alone does not inform policy making

Figure 1: The dominant view of policy-making in health sciences: from evidence to policy



Source: <https://www.ncchpp.ca/docs/FafardEvidence08June.pdf>

Impact of Relationships on Policy Decision-Making





Policy context

Co-design: Understand the policy context to influence it.

Co-designing:

- Strengthens our collective understanding of the issue
- Integrates multiple perspective
- Fosters more fulsome solutions

Specific skills:

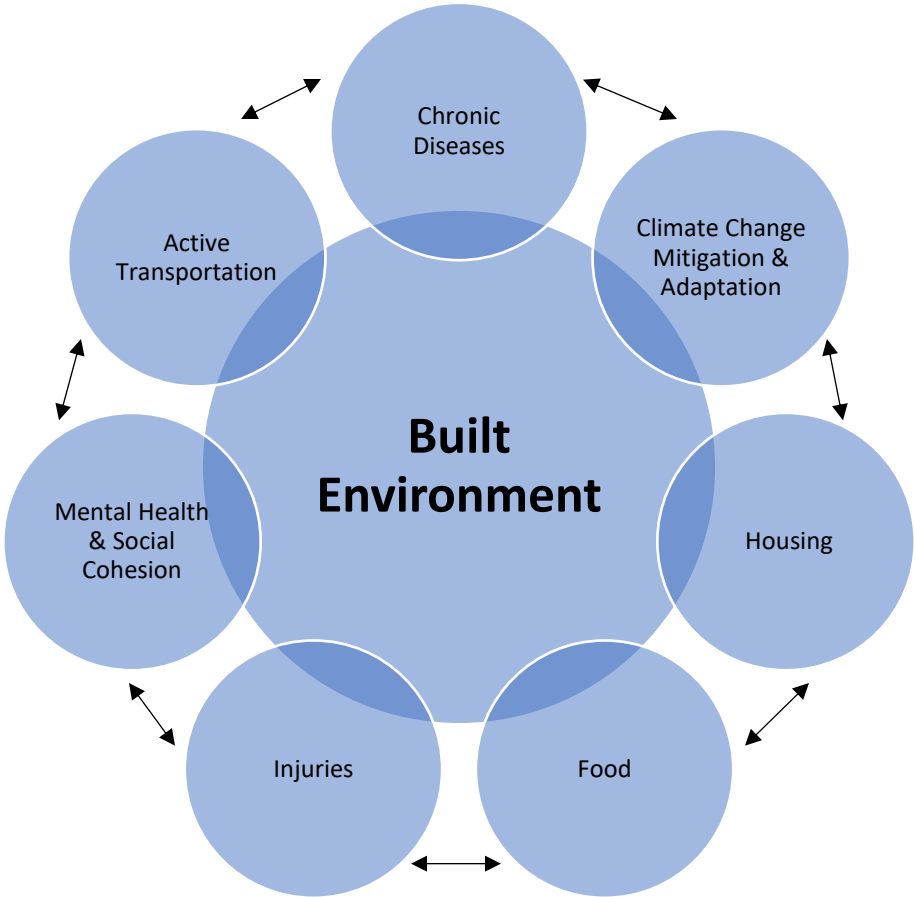
- Seek out opposing ideas to inform a comprehensive public health assessment of the issue
- Have a growth mindset and be comfortable with adapting and evolving
- Seek to be a system thinker



Systems Thinking: example

Healthy Public Policy Opportunities, i.e.:

- Extreme heat mitigation
- Sustainable site design
- Trees
- Cycle tracks
- Sidewalks
- Density
- Housing diversity
- Local shops and services
- Great urban design
- Parks
- Equitable Infrastructure \$ spent
- School area design



Policy Entanglements, i.e.:

- Greenspaces & density
- Active transportation & air quality exposure
- Noise reduction & vibrant urban life
- Highrises & social connections
- Housing affordability & sustainability
- Urban agriculture & pest control
- Traffic calming & transit
- Housing diversity & intensification



Establish deep enduring collaboration *within informal structures*



Partnership &
collaboration

- Establish relationships at multiple levels of decision-making
- Identify shared goals and opportunities to collaborate
- Specific Skills:
 - Engaging in deliberative dialogue
 - Hustling



Maximizing Impactful Influence



Shift policy influencers understanding of the health aspects of policies



Create conditions in which informal and formal policy making bodies invite health to the table



Decision-makers & influencers, outside of health sector, advocate for health to be integrated into the policies



Specific Skills:

Radically humble

Focused on long-term goals

Patience

Lessons Learned

- Technical skills open doors
- ‘Soft skills’ enable invitations to the ‘drawing’ table

