

# HARNESSING THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY TO BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW



**ACTIVER  
ACCÉLÉRER  
ACCENTUER**  
PHILANTHROPIE



**ACTIVATE  
ACCELERATE  
ACCENTUATE**  
PHILANTHROPY

## Philanthropie en mouvement : front commun vers l'Agenda 2030 (panel - FR)

### Main takeaways :

- Accountability is essential for implementing climate crisis solutions; many foundations have indeterminate goals, but we need to have clearly set objectives for the next 10, 50 and 100 years;
- We have to be comfortable investing more and in a concerted, strategic way. We can keep supporting projects from organizations as usual while also starting to do things differently. A dollar spent today has more value than a dollar spent ten years from now;
- We need to break down silos, create space for marginalized voices, and form new partnerships with long-excluded stakeholders;
- Sustainable development is satisfying the needs of the present without compromising the ability for future generations to satisfy their needs: Haudenosaunee Principle - the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future;
- Public administration seems impenetrable to change, and that's why the private and public sectors need to push. Philanthropy can support these efforts by keeping a focus on longer-term needs;
- What needs to be done is more risk-taking by the philanthropic sector to acknowledge that we are in a unique moment: take risks and trust in new, transformative, unconventional solutions. Supporting organizations' long-term capacity and thinking about how to create a major impact is critical;

- If we look at the landscape of Canada, and the available data, there is a large gap between capital growth and the actual use of funds on the ground;
- Solutions don't need to come from the philanthropic sector alone; a lot of grassroots teams have ideas but don't have the funding;
- **Participant reflections:**
  - *"In my opinion, AI is a major tool that should be acknowledged. We need infrastructure for real collaboration. There is a significant lack of long-term funding."*

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## **Partnership-Based Philanthropy: A Tool for Systemic Change (panel)**

### **Main takeaways:**

- Systems change is long-term but necessary to address the big societal problems of today; Foundations can collaborate to take collective risks;
- Systems change challenges the status quo; there's hope for a pathway to collaboration which can create efficiencies on a larger scale;
- Only in co-creation environments could you tackle long-standing issues faced by Indigenous peoples;
- With mutual trust and respect, funders and grantees can work together through all the messiness, challenges and unknowns;
- Partnering on systems change enables grantees to openly and honestly share their truths and experiences, and makes funding more impactful.

### **General theme + supporting evidence + calls to action:**

- Philanthropists could invest more in systems change by pooling funds, time, expertise, and other resources;
- Philanthropists and social entrepreneurs can come together as equals and share their different capacities to drive systems change;
- Traditional relationships were a big barrier to collaboration – namely, the grantee/funder hierarchy. Also, existing processes can stifle innovation.
- We have an opportunity to eliminate poverty for people living with disabilities in Canada; funding to help people become liberated from ineffective systems.

**Important findings or interesting facts:**

- Solutions can be more effective if they start from the community level.

**Examples of cross-sector collaboration:**

- Partnership (pilot project) with Ashoka Canada and 7 PFC members. Philanthropists were closely engaged with the Ashoka Changemakers and designers to co-create the partnership;
- Digital Solutions Lab, a co-creative collective that worked to engage communities in an innovative way;
- Collaboration can be reached through indigenous ceremonies and the leadership of elders.

**Participant Reflections:**

- Participants overall have positive impressions of systems change.

**Memorable Quotes from Presenters:**

- *"I think I know a lot about collaboration, but this taught me more."*
- *"We want to be partners before we are in a funding relationship."*

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**Reflection, Release, Reimagine for the Future, in collaboration with The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (Workshop with Kris Archie)****Main takeaways:**

- To move forward, we need to move toward release.
- Look to the following questions:

**Head, Heart, and Hands Teachings****Head**

- How can taking time to reflect nourish me?
- How might reflection be a practice for wellbeing?
- *"Untangle your memories and experiences to create meaning"*
- *"Spend time in thought"*
- *"Allow me to step back to see what really matters"*

## Heart

- How can I move away from reaction and response toward presence and release?
- How might I feel if I did this consistently?
- *“Focus on releasing negative emotions”*
- *“Breathe, be still, hold the silence”*

## Hands

- How can I increase imagination creativity and joy in my workplace?
- How might this orientation benefit myself and my peers?
- *“Be grounded, stable and calm”*
- *“Be open to change and take risks”*
- *“Reduce the guilt generated by the tyranny of action”*

## Participant Reflections:

- *“The music fuelled my heart, head and hands for so many years!”*
- *“Lovely to truly connect in a virtual world.”*
- *“It was really great to connect and learn mutual connections between our roles and passions.”*
- *“It’s harder in these times to make those new in-person connections. Nice to meet in small groups.”*

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## **Armchair Discussion: Building community, networks, and ecosystems during a crisis (panel)**

### **Main takeaways:**

- Trust-based philanthropy allows charities to do their work more effectively;
- The default is dis-trust based philanthropy – control, not collaboration is the status quo;
- Trust-based philanthropy requires a cultural shift within foundations;
- Always need to be aware of the imbalance between funders and grantees and working to move the work forward while reducing the imbalance and pressure;
- Trust-based doesn’t mean devoid of outcomes - it means asking organizations how they measure success. Let them lead the way, and shift the power back to them.

**General theme + supporting evidence + calls to action:**

- Building trust between organizations and when doing philanthropy is a process, not a single step. Needs a lot of repeated interactions;
- Also, you have to trust and have relationships with the people you're not funding. This means people who have decision making power (eg. unions);
- Longer grant periods allow for relationship change and for organizations to invest in themselves;
- When thinking about outcomes and accountability, you need to be very clear about what measurements you are asking for. What is the value added to the organization asking for this info?
- Should get to know more than just the executives - try and build relationships with more people in the organization;
- When you ask people from outside your organization for their help, make sure to pay them for their time.

**Important findings or interesting facts:**

- Funders are asking for more than organizations can give. They don't have the human or organizational capacity, and they feel they have to say yes because of the imbalance.

**Examples of cross-sector collaboration:**

- Trust-based philanthropy requires being a part of the social fabric and culture.

**Participant Reflections:**

- Accountability comes through empowerment

**Memorable Quotes from Presenters:**

- *"We cannot do anything without others. We cannot exist alone."*
- *"You have to be explicit about telling grantees that they're in the best position to make decisions about resources."*

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## **The Future of Philanthropy: Resilience, Recovery, and Reinvention (panel)**

### **Main takeaways :**

- Foundations have stepped up and acted with urgency and flexibility. The big question that remains is whether these changes will stick. We need to use imagination, think about power, and learn to put the voices of communities first;
- We need to be critical of the work that we do and intentional of whose voices we listen to;
- We must recognize that it will take different approaches to rebuild than in emergency response and recovery. The rebuilding phase will involve more risk-taking, funding with intention, funding different causes and different communities, leveraging different skill sets, greater engagement of public policy, and has to be rooted in trust and reciprocity.

### **General theme + supporting evidence + calls to action:**

- We've got this one moment and we can't blow it. Everything, from our care models to our environment, is in flux. We have to figure out how to get change right at this time;
- Philanthropy's role can explore the ways that we can support the social infrastructure required for organizations/charities to sustain themselves. We can help grassroots groups, charities, and leaders transition to a more digital world, and close the digital divide;
- We need to reinvent the old model of charity. We need collective leadership, bringing together particularly the groups that have been excluded, and youth. We have to collect more data and information to make better decisions.

### **Memorable Quotes from Presenters:**

- *"Centre equity now! You've heard it, you've witnessed it. It's time to do something, no more excuses."*
- *"Climate change still requires immediate action. The planet is still hurting and we have got to do something about it."*
- *"Let's build back better already."*
- *"Now is the time to turn things on their head and take risks."*
- *"The money is there, we just have to keep making it available and have it circulating."*