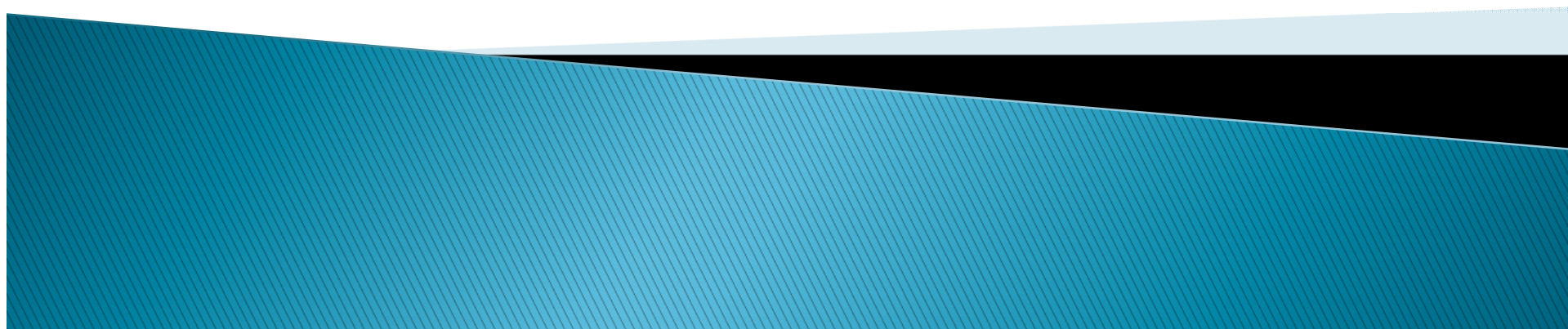


# **PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS CANADA- WEBINAR**

## **Grantmakers and Government: The Possibilities for Partnership**

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June 1, 2017



# AGENDA

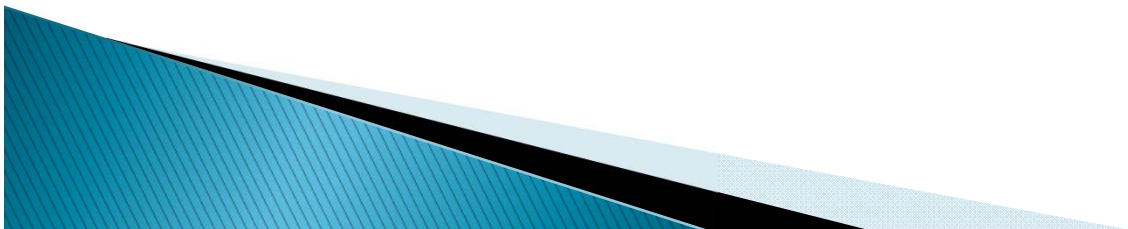
- ▶ Setting the stage for the Discussion Paper
- ▶ Landscape:
  - Foundation
  - Government
- ▶ Paradoxes of working with Government
- ▶ The fundamentals – how to
- ▶ Q/A and discussion



# Setting the stage

- ▶ Why a discussion paper?

- ▶ Scope



# Setting the stage

- ▶ Methodology
- ▶ Caveats



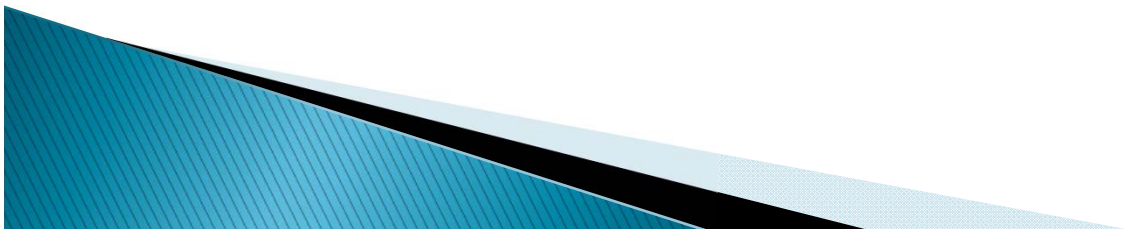
# Landscape – Foundations

- ▶ Not a new topic but an evolving partnership
- ▶ Key influencing factors:
  - Government has oversight of virtually all spheres of foundation mandates
  - History of partnerships and government engagement
  - Recent successes in these partnerships



# Landscape – Foundations

- ▶ Policy and systems change:
  - Charitable sector has an important role to play
  - Collective efforts and impact
  - Greater collaboration amongst foundations
  - Increased expertise within foundations



# Landscape – Government

- ▶ Role of government evolving
- ▶ “Relational state” :
  - Increased reliance on new voices, new ideas, new innovations
  - Increased openness to being influenced by these
- ▶ Greater citizen engagement



# Landscape – Government

- ▶ Foundations serving critical roles:
  - Building evidence-based approaches that inform policy
    - Alberta Wellness Initiative: science based evidence and data informing and improving family-based outcomes at systemic and policy levels
  - Funding pilots, investing in new ideas/risks before they are ready for government funding
  
- ▶ Upcoming demographic shift





# Paradoxes



# Paradoxes

- ▶ #1: Governments make policy change but foundations aren't always the best partners for policy change
  - Policy input depends on multiple perspectives and voices:
    - Foundations, other charities, academia etc.
    - Need to build the capacity of the sector for providing inputs
  
- ▶ # 2: Foundations' traditional strength is funding, governments don't need funding.....
  - Need ideas, risk mitigation,



# Paradoxes

- ▶ #3 Governments want change but don't like risk
  - Funders help test new ideas, generate learning
  - Risks identified, minimized for government intervention
    - Canadian Social Finance Task Force as a recent model
  
- ▶ #4 More accountability can mean less partnership
  - Governments are elected, have public accountability, operate in the public sphere under public scrutiny
  - Foundations are differently accountable, do not have the same accountability or credibility
    - The Lucie and Andre Chagnon Foundation



# The fundamentals ...how to

## ► Why do this work?

- It is an opportunity to help government think in different ways and help it do its business in different ways
- We can bring issue onto its radar that may not already be there, or bring back important issues that fell off the radar
- We can afford to take risks and make mistakes that government cant
- We have the luxury of outlasting every single government.
- We see things from a very long term perspective
- We have fewer constraints in what we can do with our funding
- Government is your scaling strategy



# The fundamentals ...how to

- ▶ Start with the foundation:
  - Does the foundation have a clear vision and sense of outcomes on the issues you care about? Has it developed a theory of change?
  - Who else is involved in the sector?
  - What governments touch this issue?
  - Is the issue even on its radar? Should it be?



# The fundamentals ...how to

- ▶ Identify the right place to start
- ▶ Know what you want before you ask/approach. Take small steps, build relationships
- ▶ Appropriate asks at appropriate levels (municipal, provincial, federal)
- ▶ Ensure you are aligned on the outcomes
- ▶ Look at the system and how to imbed progress – not rely on relationships alone



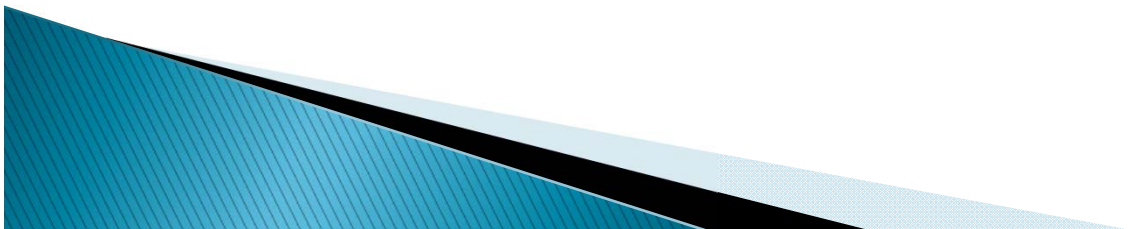
# The fundamentals ...how to

- ▶ Different ways of partnering
  - Intermediary organizations (AFWI)
  - Co-funding or delivering government funding
  - Sharing knowledge
  - Participating on think tanks, policy dialogues, etc
  - Help create and test alternative pathways
  - Build capacity of others to work with government



# Key challenges

- ▶ Knowing when government is not an appropriate partner
- ▶ Patience
- ▶ Cultural differences
- ▶ Complexity of process
- ▶ Complexity of issues





# Closing thoughts:

*The essence of philanthropic action is still rather unclear for many state officials and bureaucrats. Many different opinions and judgements exist and more important they still do not appreciate the scope and flexibility we have for innovation (time, risk and testing possibilities).*

*Most important, strategic philanthropy, informed by a risk-taking culture that wants to advance innovative ideas about a better society, is more critical than ever....In the final analysis, we continue to believe that the best ideas need to be turned into sustainable public policies. The quest for understanding how best to work with governments will be key. The learning in this regard, must continue.*

Jean-Marc Chouinard of the Chagnon Foundation



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

