



# The Preferred Approach to Evaluating Collaborations: What's in Your Evaluation Research and Development (R&D) Tool Box?

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Transforming health and wellbeing through research and innovation




Funded by the Government of Alberta



- Purpose and Objectives
- Think Tank Outline
- Context
- Research Trends
- Approaches Used
- Gaps
- Think Tank: break out session



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- Presentation and discussion 4:30 to 4:50
  - Break out session 4:50 to 5:30
  - Report back to larger group 5:30 to 5:50
  - Wrap up and next steps 5:50 to 6:00





*“a cooperative way that two or more entities work together toward a shared goal...”*

(Source: Frey et al. 2006)



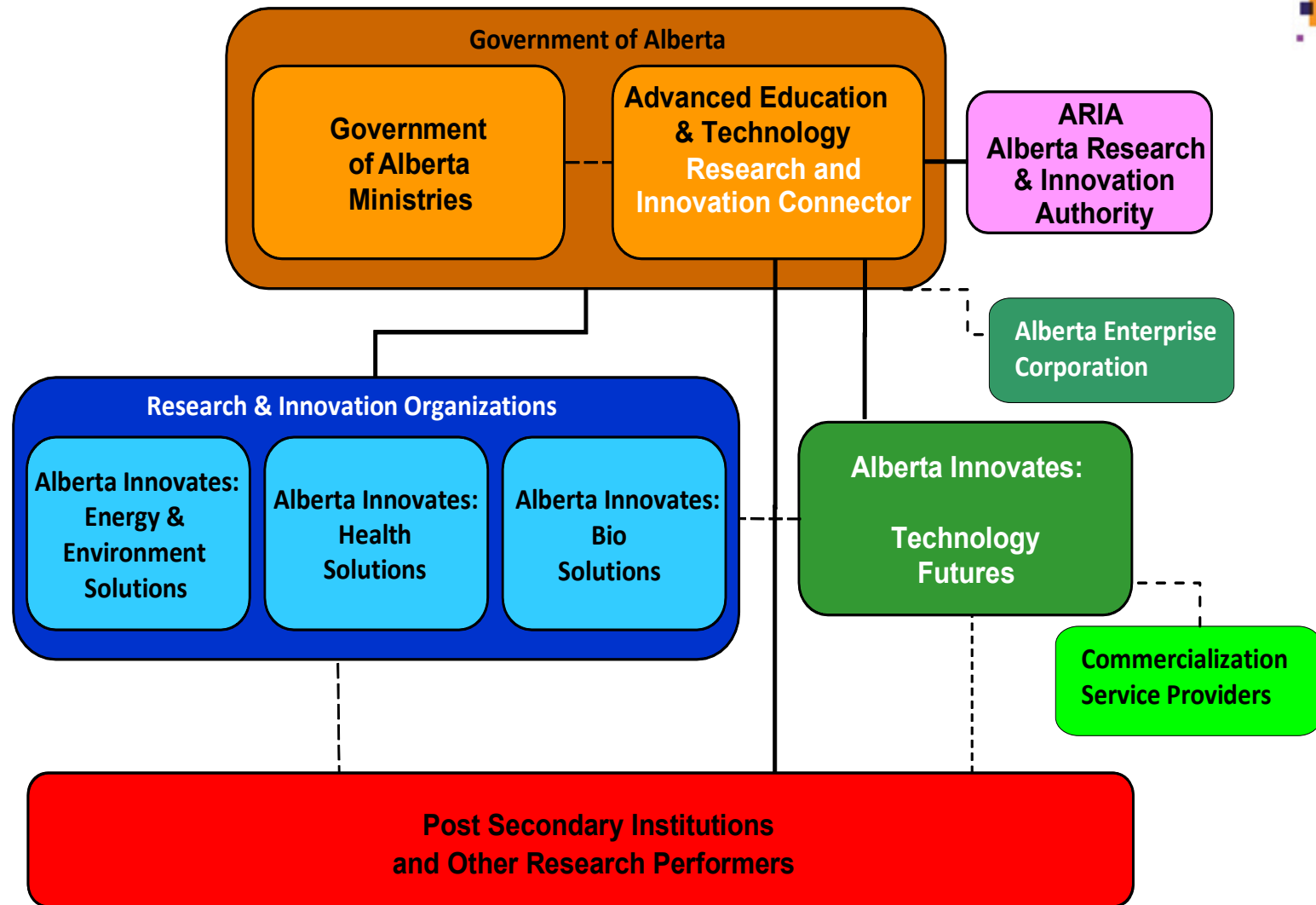


*Transform Health  
and Well-being  
through Research  
and Innovation*



**Our Mandate** is to support economic and social wellbeing.

# Context - Alberta Innovates Ecosystem



‘Capturing Value’ from Industry for Society

Advice from Industry and Society

(Source: AAET, 2010)



# Our Journey





“Organizational strategic  
collaborations & partnerships”

“Interdisciplinary  
team grants”

“R&D networks”

“Knowledge translation”

“Collaborative  
research  
opportunities”

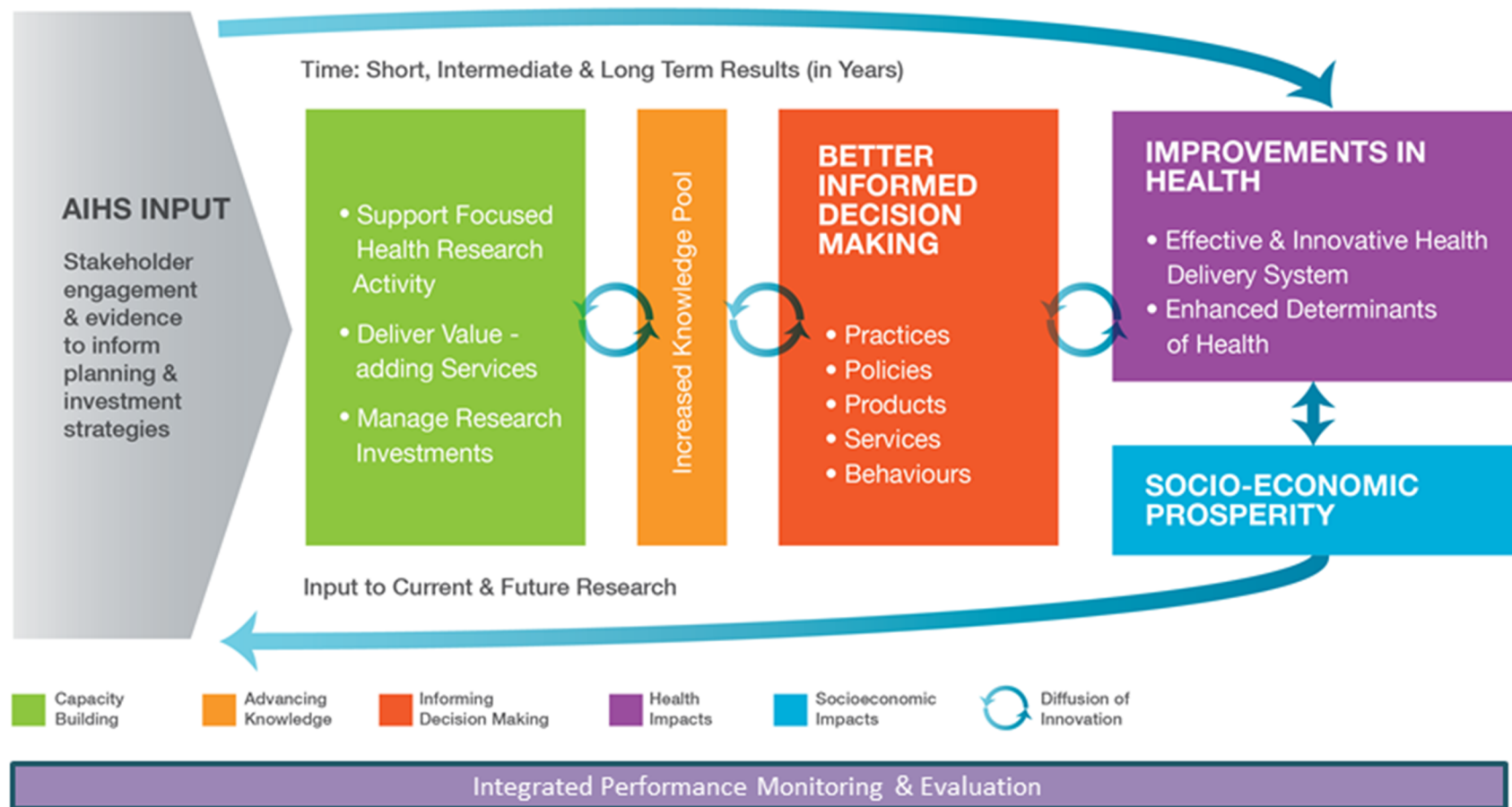
“Harmonization  
initiatives”

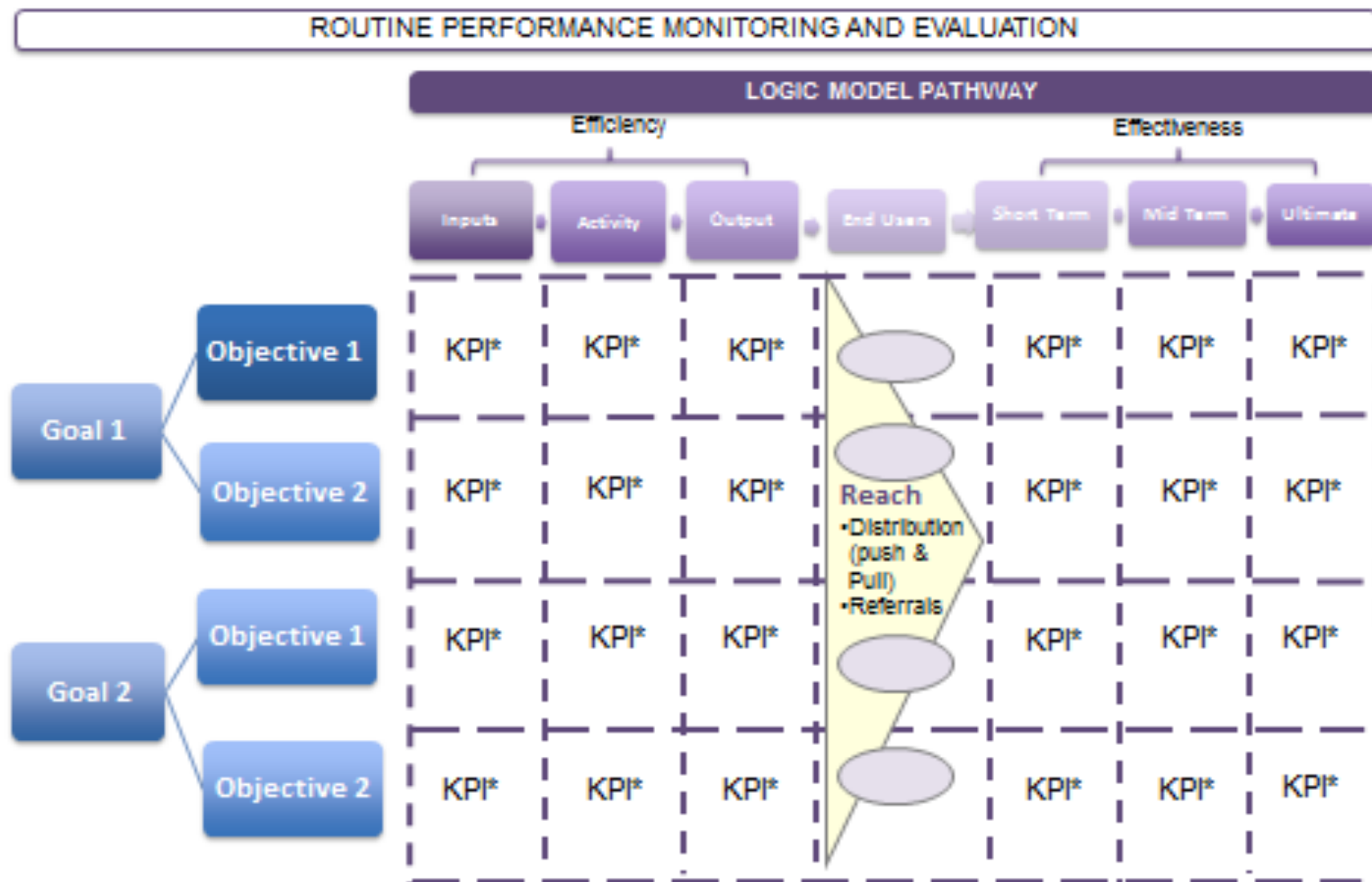




# AIHS Research to Impact Framework

## AIHS Mission & Vision







*“Best Practice combines narratives with relevant qualitative and quantitative indicators to gauge broader social, environmental, cultural and economic public value. Limited consultation between policy-makers and the research evaluation community has led to a lack of policy-learning from international developments”*

(Source: C. Donovan, 2011)





## Quantitative

- Econometrics
- Statistical
- Surveys
- Bibliometrics
- Social Network Analysis
- Rubrics, Scoring, Composite Rating
- Data Mining

## Qualitative

- Case Studies
- Expert Judgment – Peer Review
- Delphi Method
- Logic Models

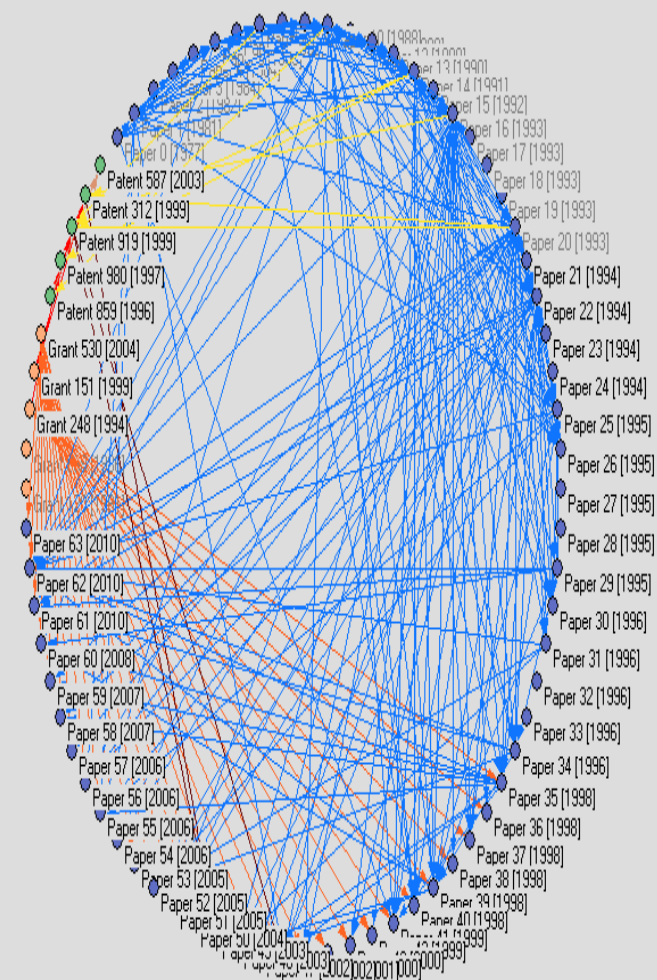




# AIHS Examples

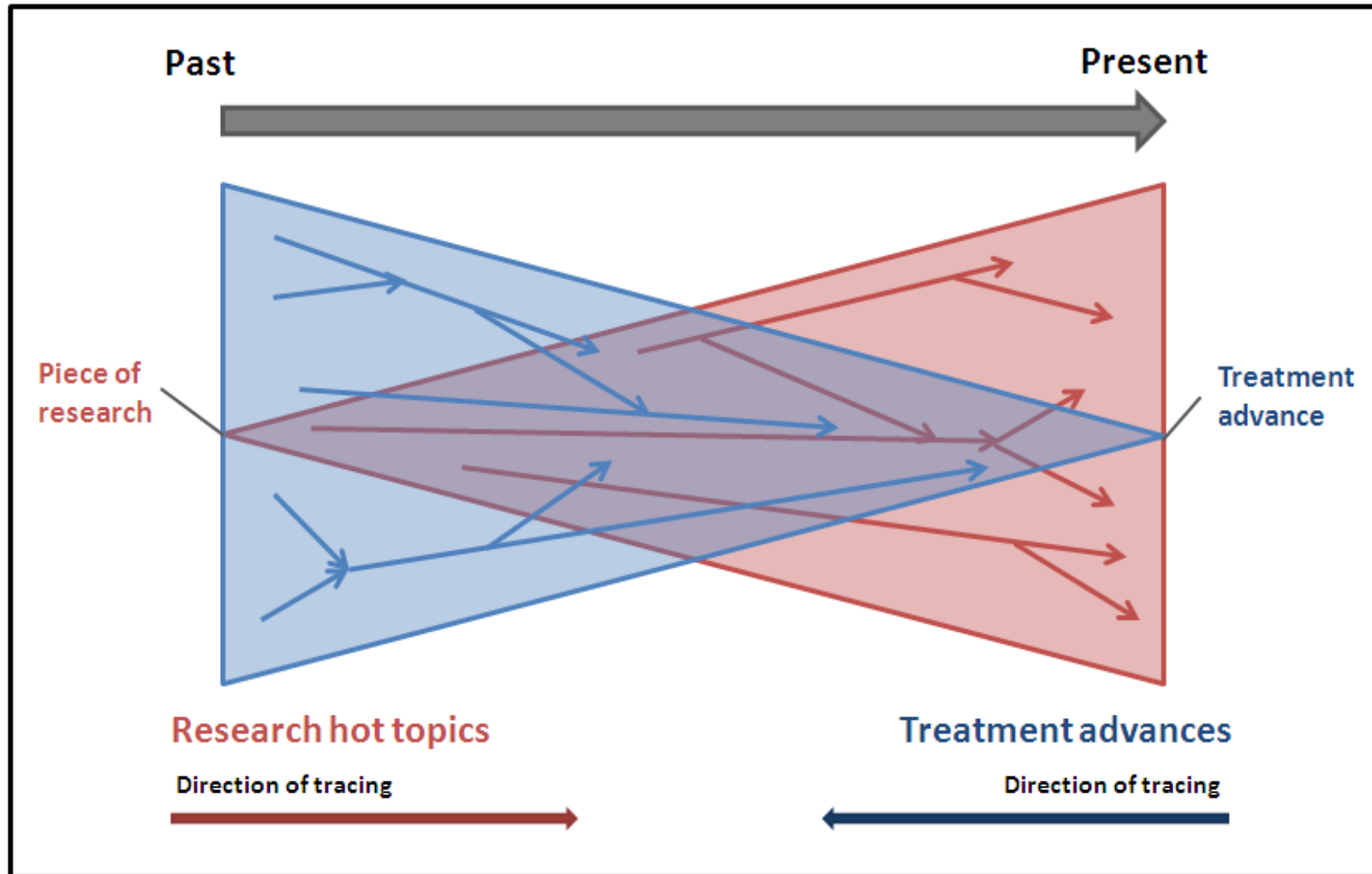
## Methods and Tools







# Case Studies



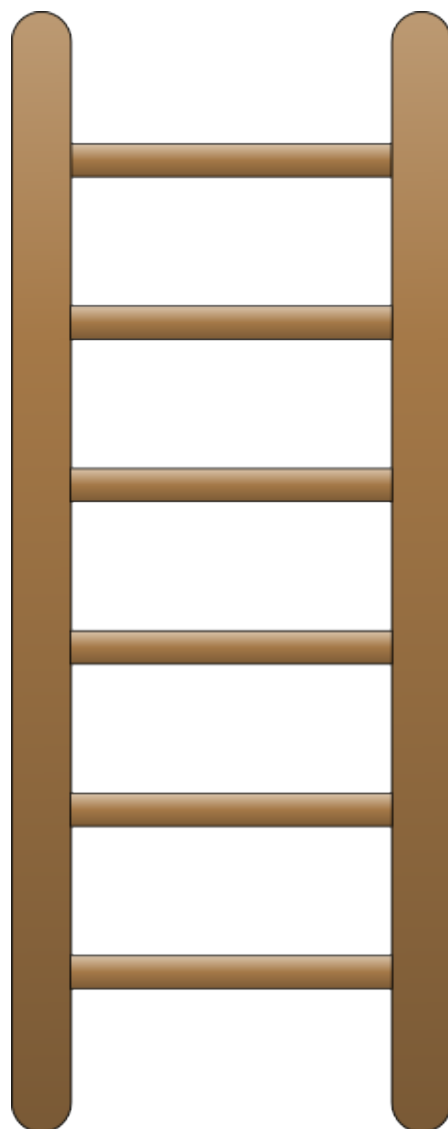
## Objectives

- Support research that offer solutions for complex health issues
- Provide opportunities for training and mentorship
- Support quality research using collaborative team approaches
- Timely transfer and knowledge exchange with end users to improve health and health care systems





# Informing Decision Making



Change

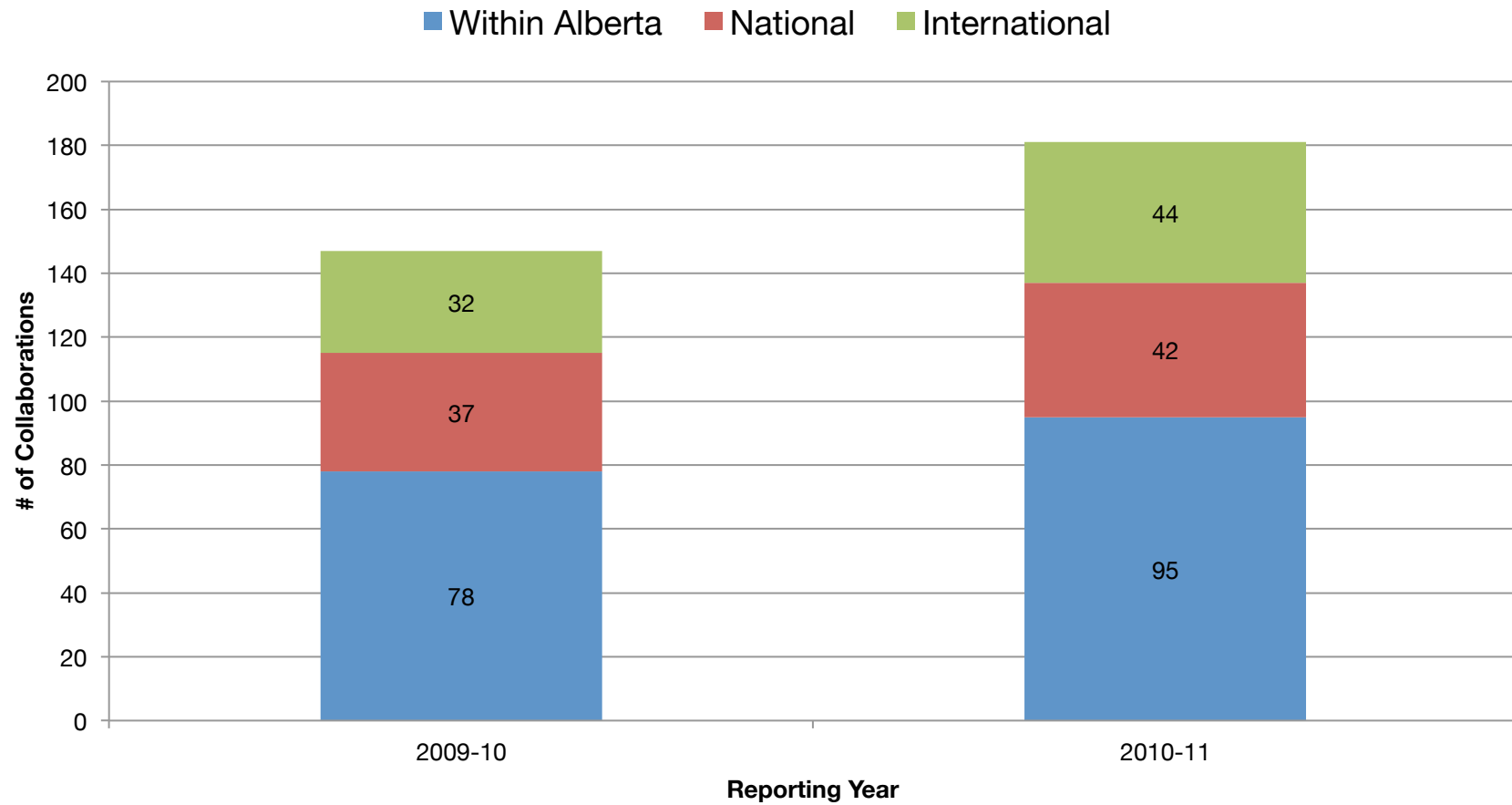
Use

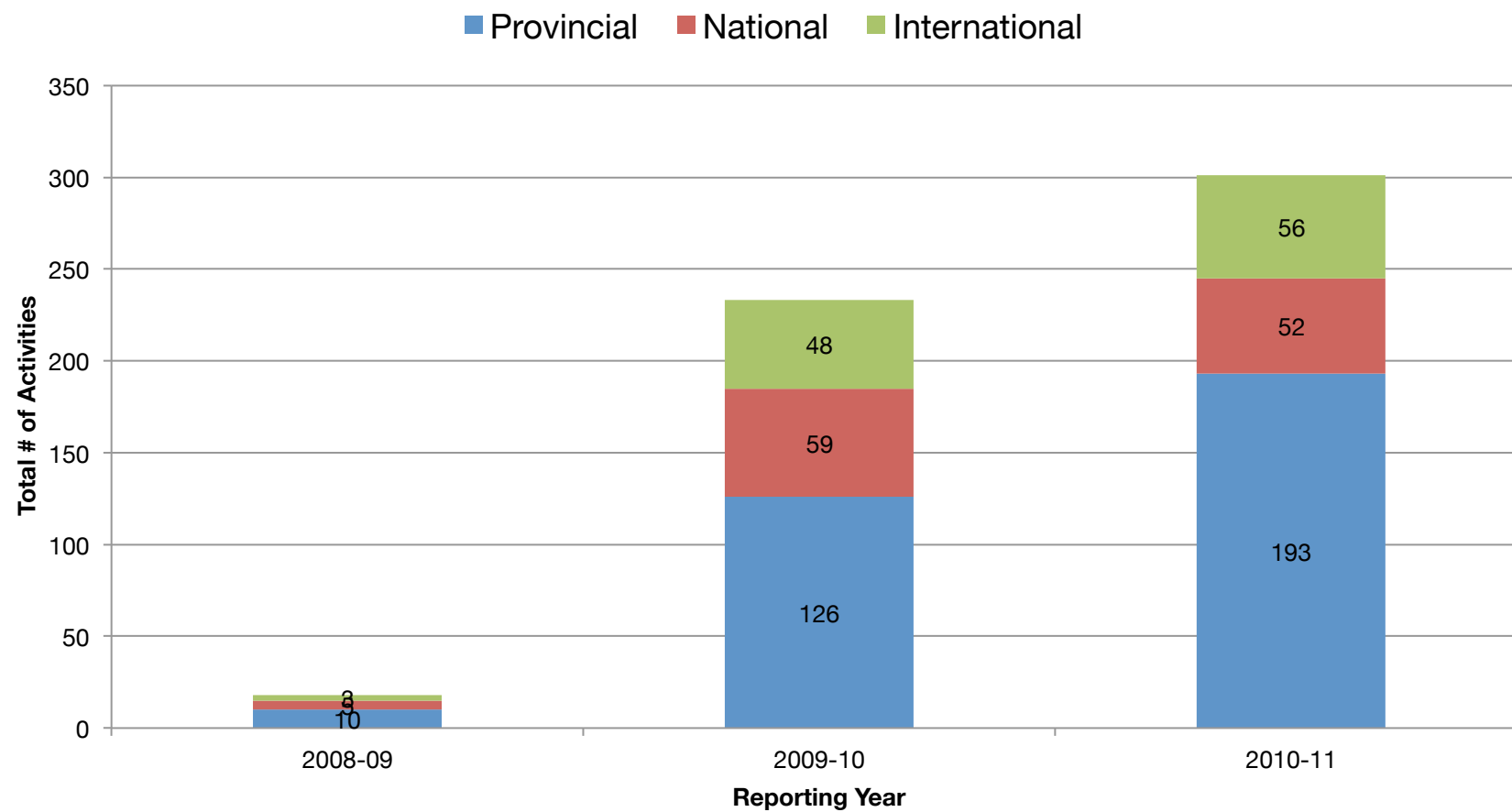
Dissemination

Engagement



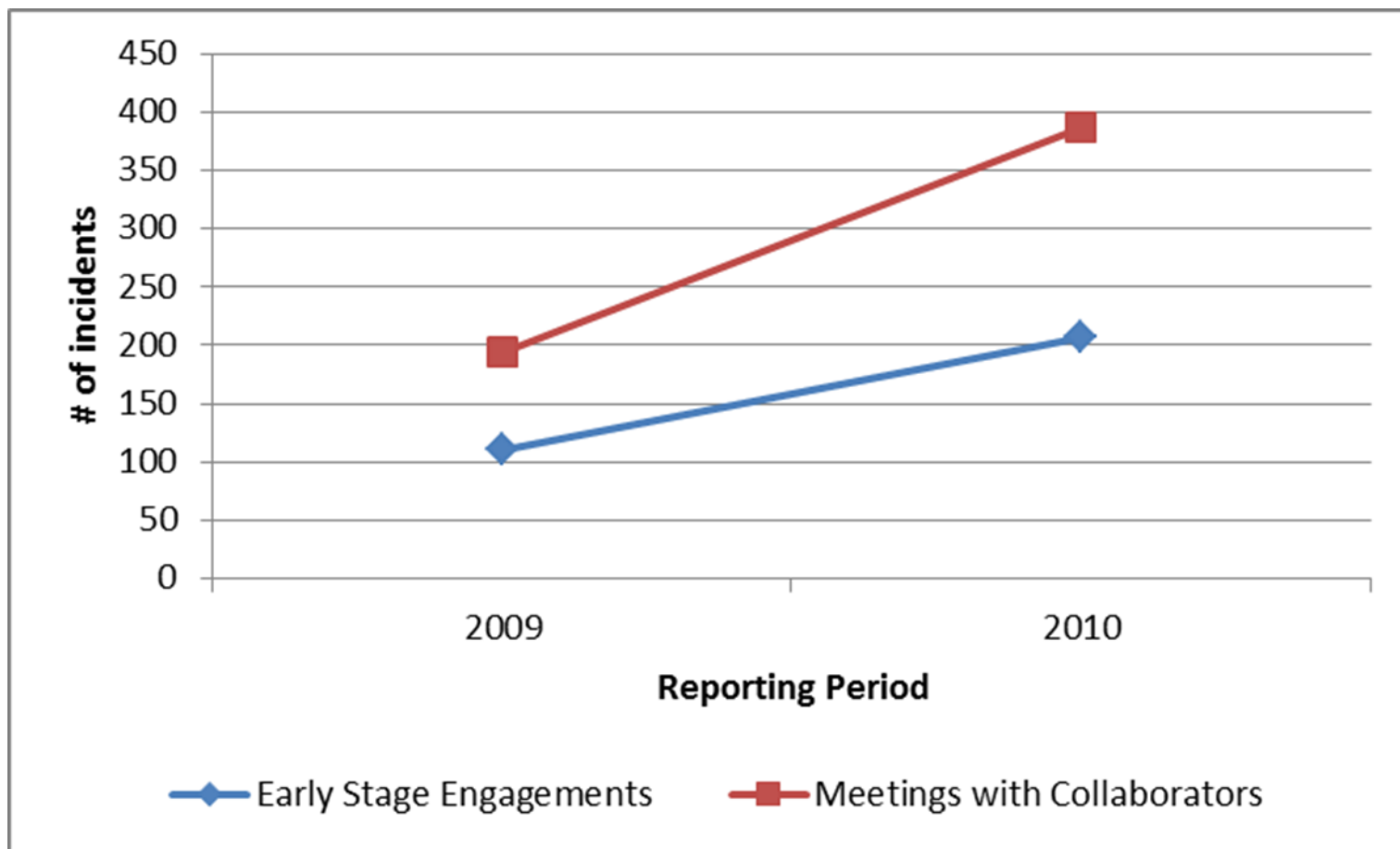
# Collaborations







# Strategic Organizational Collaborations





# AIHS Workshop Series

## Common Impacts & Measures



# Cross Sector Measures

Common Measures	Different Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Publications</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Citations</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Patents</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Highly Skilled People/ Qualified</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge translation in general and policy guidelines specifically</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry prosperity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Safety (workforce and workplace)</li></ul>





- ☐ CAHS impact categories endorsed cross sector
- ☐ Impact sector specific
- ☐ Culture

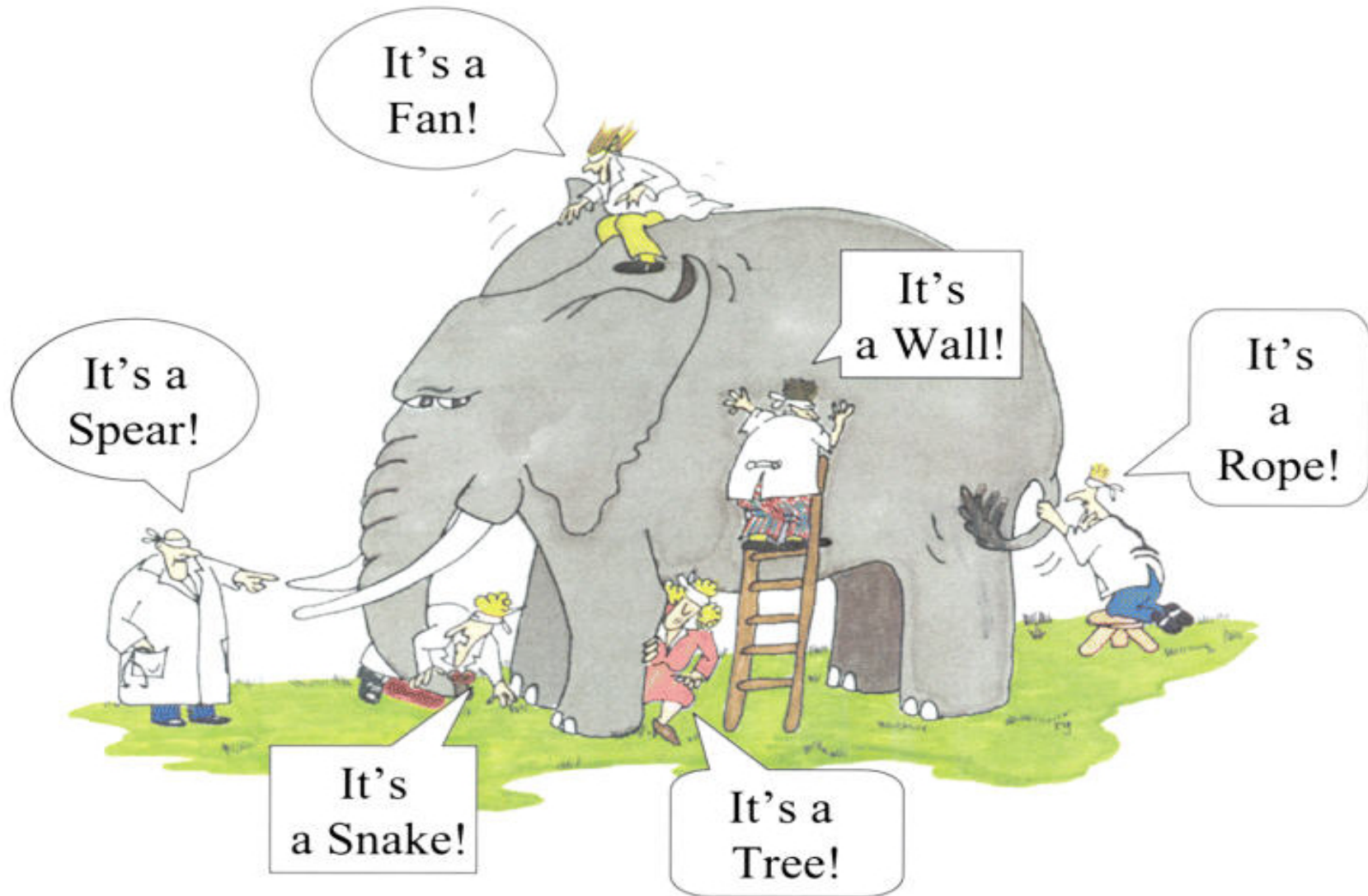




# The Gaps



# The Elephant







# 'Elephant' Concepts



- ✓ Systems evaluation approach
- ✓ Create evaluation and learning systems, not just stand alone evaluations
- ✓ Look at shared/joint measures rather than just individual measures
- ✓ Use innovative evaluation approaches that recognize complexity
- ✓ Iterative and emerging – process – “how to”



## Evaluators Toolbox

- Technometrics
- Altmetrics
- Bibliometrics – collaboration index/affinity
- Network Analysis – Netchains...etc.
- Systems approach
- Developmental Evaluation approach





# Think Tank

## Breakout Session



# Our Key Questions for Today

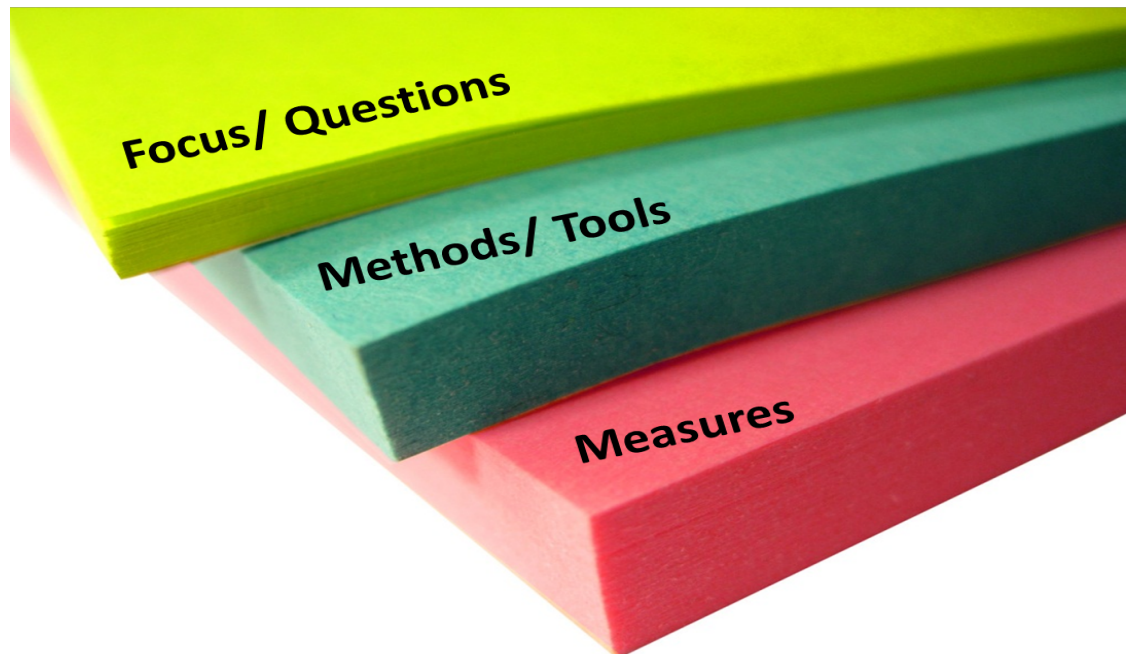


*“What are the current practices and preferred approaches, tools and measures used to evaluate collaboration within the R&D context?”*



## Breakout Session

- 1) When evaluating collaborations what do you primarily focus on? e.g., evaluation questions
- 2) What methods and tools do you use?
- 3) What measures are useful?



# Breakout Out Session Rules



1) Choose a facilitator:

\_\_\_\_\_ (name) (to ensure all contribute)

2) and a scribe: \_\_\_\_\_ (thick pen)

3) and a reporter: \_\_\_\_\_ (thick pen)

4) Agree ground rules

☐ Defer Judgment

☐ Submit and build on the idea of others

☐ One conversation at a time

☐ Stay focused on the topic

☐ Encourage novel ideas








# Preferred and Promising Approaches

Plenary Summary

Breakout Groups – Report Back



# Report Back



Focus/ Questions	Methods/ Tools	Measures





# Wrap Up

## Next Steps



AAET, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and Alberta Health and Wellness. (2010). *Alberta's Health Research and Innovation Strategy*. <  
[http://eae.alberta.ca/media/277640/ahris\\_report\\_aug2010\\_web.pdf](http://eae.alberta.ca/media/277640/ahris_report_aug2010_web.pdf)> accessed 1 June 2012.

Donovan, C. (2011). State of the art in assessing research impact: Introduction to a special issue. *Research Evaluation*, 20(3), 175-179.

Frey, B., Lohmeier, J. H., Lee, S. L., & Tollefson, N. (2006). Measuring collaboration among grant partners. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 27, 383-392.



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# Ready for Wine?



A word cloud visualization of survey responses. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'Optimistic' being the largest and most central word. Other prominent words include 'Encouraged', 'Tired', 'Enlightened', 'Aha Moment', 'It is possible', 'Happy but I need a 4-hr drive to consolidate', 'Awesome', 'Energized', 'Satisfied', 'Good', 'Somewhat optimistic', 'Hopeful', 'Enriched', and 'Ready for wine'. The colors of the words range from light yellow to dark red.

Aha Moment  
It is possible  
Energized  
Happy but I need a 4-hr drive to consolidate  
Awesome  
Encouraged  
Tired  
Enlightened  
Satisfied  
Good  
Optimistic  
Somewhat optimistic  
Hopeful  
Enriched  
Ready for wine

thank  
you