

Supporting non-profits for healthy public policy: an experience and its futures

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National Collaborating Centres
for Public Health
Centres nationaux de collaboration
en santé publique

*Institut national
de santé publique*

Québec 

Our mandate

«Provide support to public health actors across Canada in their efforts to produce healthy public policies by shedding light on the best strategies to use»



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Overview

1 - A one year project

2 -Lessons learned

3 -Future directions

A one year project

Two dimensional partnership

➔ Support reflexivity in regards to their policy influencing practices

Case studies: public policy influencing practices



A one year project

Six non-profits:
environment (2); housing (3); obesity



REVITALISATION DES ANCIENS QUARTIERS

A one year project

Negotiated pragmatic characteristics



Reflection guides (5 pages)

Essays (5-10 pages)

Discussions of essays

One correspondent per organization

Variable arrangements to produce essays

A one year project

Negotiated
themes



1. Definition of the object
2. Actors coalitions
3. Governmental regimes
4. Governmental rationalities
5. The idea of change
6. Citizen participation
7. Science and policy
8. Funding and communications
9. Summary

A one year project

Actors:
asked to think in
terms of coalitions
of actors
(Sabatier and
Jenkins-Smith)

A one year project

«...I was surprised to discover that I was looking at certain different actors within the affordable housing sector (other agencies, bureaucrats, business interests) as fundamentally opposed in values to the work we have been trying to accomplish (...) The differences exist at the level of secondary aspects, or how to get to the goal. Some major differences do exist in terms of target population(s), and who is best able to deliver. While these differences are very important, they are, ultimately, secondary.»

A one year project

Governmental regimes:
asked to think of historical
regularities/discontinuities
in problematizations,
privileged solutions, and
forms of authority

A one year project



«An aspect of sustainable development that is not yet mainstream is the need to ‘internalize environmental externalities’ (in other words: make people accountable for the pollution they produce). Even at the federal level, Canada doesn’t recognize externalities that are not paid for in an economic system, but that we all have to pay for sooner or later within an ecosystem.»

A one year project



«We received feedback about the 4th Citizen's Summit saying that we were the first organisation who talked about the urban economy from this perspective, and that it was a really important issue. The key issues of the urban economy and what it means could be a thematic workshop organised for next year in preparation for the 5th Citizens Summit. We need to work hard on these ideas and push the envelope to strategically orchestrate the tool of the Summits to influence municipal authorities.»

A one year project

Change:
asked to think
with different
conceptions
of change

Howlett and Ramesh:
normal and paradigmatic

Hall:
first, second and third order

Sabatier et al.:
minor and major



A one year project



«Hall's conception outlined above is helpful in that it breaks things down in a more serviceable way: overall goals, instruments for achieving those goals, and settings for the instruments to tune them properly. This appears to be a ready to go tool for quickly assessing a situation and for getting to work. It enables one to pretty easily determine the level at which one wishes to make a change and for setting strategies and timeframes accordingly. Overall goals make value claims more explicit, and then one can focus on the debate about what means to use to get there.»

Lessons learned

1-Organizational issues

2 -Non-profit issues

3 -Themes issues

Lessons learned

1- Organizational issues

Visit important: «on their turf», why?, how?

Funding: necessary, but...

Collective interaction and learning: certainly, but...

Modes of exchange

Lessons learned

2- Non-profits issues

Quite variable ability to understand and use knowledge of public policy processes

Quite variable capacity to get out of the fly-bottle

Importance of flexible arrangements to produce essays

Diversity of types of organizations and of public policy domains

Lessons learned

3- Themes-related issues

Themes 2-5, 7

(context, change, evidence)

inspired by scientific knowledge of public policy

Themes 6 and 8 return of their own questions

Formulation of themes

Topics covered

Futures

- 1- Development of the series of themes (new, reformulation, «reformatting»)
- 2- Creation of new modes of exchange around themes
- 3- Other possibility

Futures

1- Development

Media:

- representations;
- production, circulation, consumption of media;

1-

New themes

political risk management;

lobbying;

cost-benefit analysis

Futures

1- Development

Modification/enrichment of
background

2 - Reformulation

Make it specific to a particular
public policy domain

➡ Use of audio-visual material

Futures

2- Modes of exchange

2 days

10 organizations from all
across Canada

Workshops,
e.g.:

Specific public policy domain
(e.g. energy-related policies
and public health)

Futures

2- Modes of exchange

- More grounded background for themes

Benefits

- More commonalities amongst groups
- Each other's experience and knowledge available
- Outside day-to-day activities
- More explicit integration of health knowledge and preoccupations

Futures

3 - Other possibility

Participate to the development
and functioning of a canadian
network of knowledge synthesis
and exchange around low-
threshold services

Other developments?

Any thoughts
as to what we
could do to
support non-
profits?

Considering
that our
functions are...

- Collaboration and networking
- Knowledge synthesis
- Knowledge exchange
- Research promotion
- Strategic scan

Thank you!