Homelessness is a seemingly intractable problem in Canada.
We don’t need RESEARCH!
We know the Problem
We know the Solution
Sooo . . . What are key challenges in creating research impact?
1. Much research is difficult to access and share
2. Homelessness Research is not a well established subject area
3. Barriers to collaboration

- Academics, community, policy makers not linked
- Weak capacity
- Lack of shared goals
4. Gap between the needs and practices of research producers and users
KEY CHALLENGE:

Homelessness research was NOT havin the impact on policy, practice and advocacy that it should.

HOW DO WE CREATE THE IMPACT?
Canadian Homelessness Research Network

SSHRC Strategic Knowledge Cluster Grant Program

2008-2015
The central research question that guides our activities is:

“"In what ways can research more effectively contribute to solutions to homelessness in Canada?"”
What is Knowledge Mobilization?

Strategies and practices that seek to strengthen connections between research, policy, practice and public opinion to enhance common good.

HOWEVER:

• Not saying this is the only kind of research that is valued
• Cannot take for granted that research makes the world a better place.
Three Strategic Areas

- Networking
- Engaged Scholarship
- Communication
Strategy 1
Networking
Networking

Key concerns:
- Relationships: creating links
- Thinking about structure
- Clarity about goals and objectives
- How are goals to be accomplished?
- Events and activities
Networking in Canada

1) National
   - NAB
   - Conferences
   - CABS network

2) Regional
   - Provincial
   - Municipal

3) Topical
   - Women
   - Criminalization
   - Youth
   - Aboriginal issues
   - People who have experienced homelessness
International Networking

1) Europe
   - FEANTSA
   - European Observatory on Homelessness
   - France, UK, Ireland

2) United States
   - National Alliance to End Homelessness

3) Australia
   - Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

4) Global
   - International Alliance to End Homelessness
   - North / South dialogue
Strategy 2
Engaged Scholarship
1. Understand and acknowledge differences.
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- Institutional Differences
- Divergent interests
- Different practices
2. Identify Mutual Benefits
For researchers

- Opportunity to engage in research that has an impact
- Emerging issues on the ground are identified
- Access to institutions and populations
For Policy makers and practitioners

- Key questions get addressed
- Lends legitimacy to strategies
- Evidence base for decision-making
- Identify and confirm promising practices
- Shift thinking about issues
“That ‘academic’ credibility is essential to moving the message forward on whatever that research is. Equally important, I am accepted by community people...so that part of the message couldn't be heard if I wasn't there. We just reach different audiences.”

(Arlene Hache, NWT)
3 The importance of Relationships
Necessary Features

• Building TRUST: All parties treated with mutual respect
• Thoughtful planning
• Key roles and leadership
4  Co-creating the research agenda
Solicit Agreement on

- The focus of the research
- Key research questions
- Methodology
- Research outputs and intellectual property
- Timelines
5 Focused Outcomes
Considerations

• What are the goals of collaboration? Is there clarity?

• What are the anticipated outputs and outcomes? (report, academic papers, briefs, etc.)
Strategy 3

Communications
Our Approach

- Community engagement
- Content Creation
- Graphic Design
- Communications and Marketing

the homeless hub
Our main KMb tool

Homeless Hub

www.homelesshub.ca
Features

Housing First Reduces Re-offending among Formerly Homeless Adults with Mental Disorders: Results of a Randomized Controlled Trial

Authors: Somers, Julian M.; Rezansoff, Stefanie N.; Moniruzzaman, Akim; Palepu, Anita; Patterson, Michelle

Homelessness and mental illness have a strong association with public disorder and criminality. Experimental evidence indicates that Housing First (HF) increases housing stability and perceived choice among those...
Content Creation

Tips

Guides

Blogs

Lifestyle

Newsletters

Articles

Resources
You wouldn’t like me when I’m angry...

Because I always back up my rage with facts and documented sources.

-The Credible Hulk
Where are we headed?