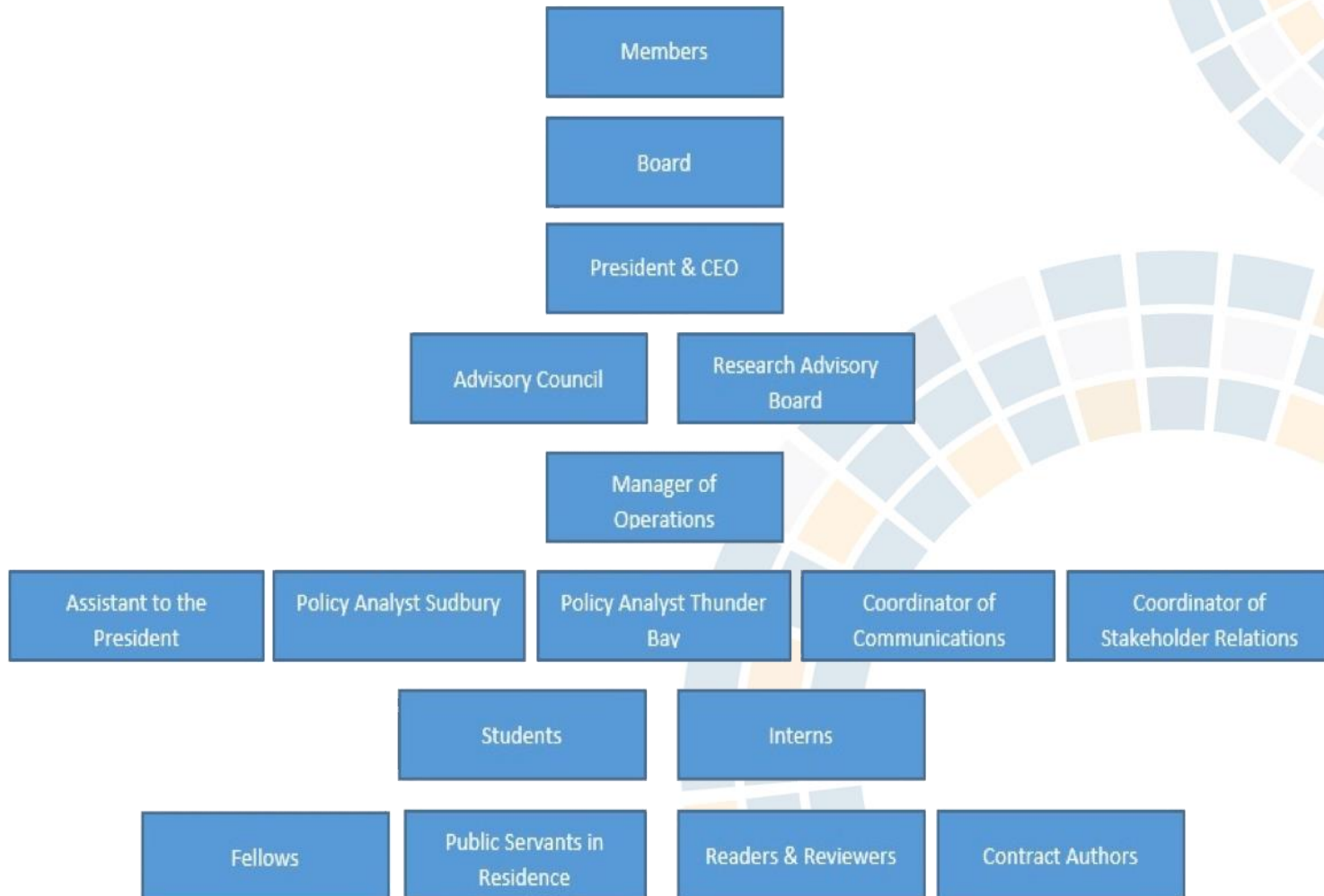


**AN INTRODUCTION TO
NORTHERN POLICY INSTITUTE/
INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES DU NORD**

***ROTARY CLUB OF SUDBURY
– 28 JULY 2014***



Key players INSIDE NPI



Get Involved!

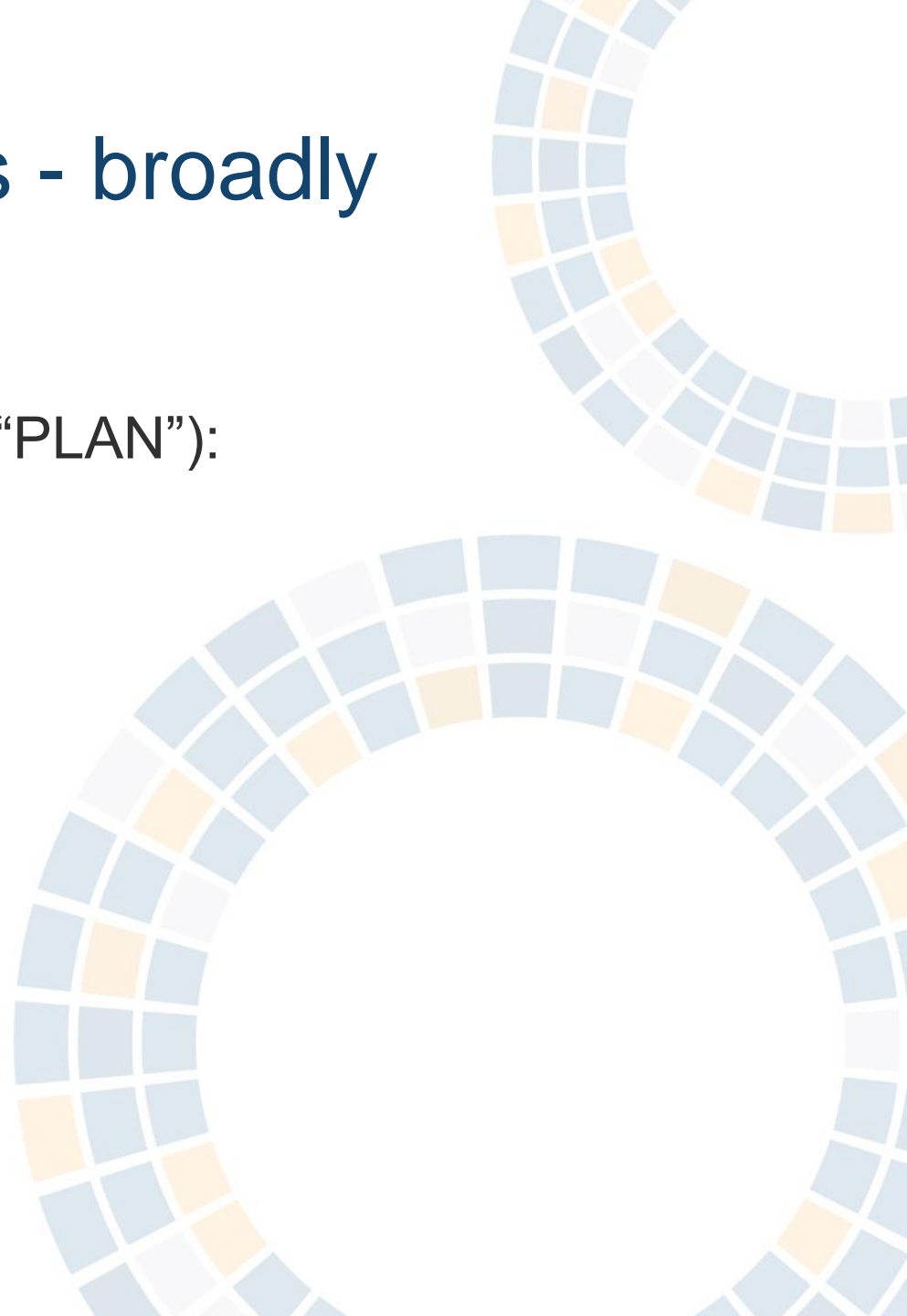
Many ways to contribute to the work of NPI:

- Stay informed: blog, twitter, website, e-newsletter
- Participate: standing consultation tools, on-line consultation, direct meetings, speaker invitations
- Volunteer: Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Research Advisory Board
- Paid: author, reader, researcher, senior fellow

NPI Areas of Focus - broadly

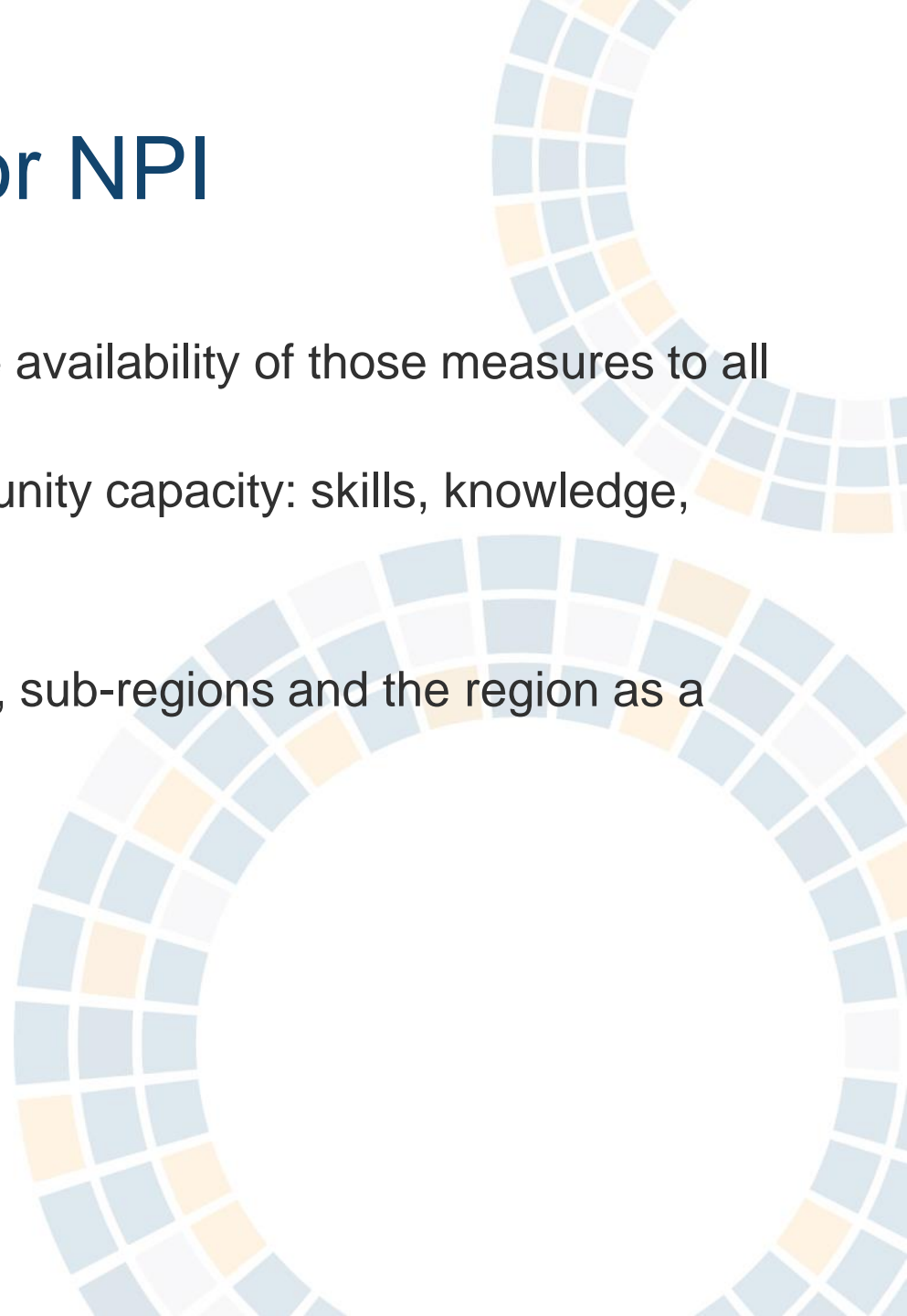
Northern Growth
(note NOT Northern Growth “PLAN”):

1. Aboriginal peoples
2. Communities
3. Demographics
4. Economy
5. Environment
6. Infrastructure



Three Key Goals for NPI

- Enhance measurement and the availability of those measures to all stakeholders
- Building SUSTAINABLE community capacity: skills, knowledge, private capital
- Enhancing self-sufficiency
 - Of individuals, communities, sub-regions and the region as a whole



How do we choose projects?

Key questions:

Is it an important public policy issue?

- More on that in a minute

Can we make a difference?

- If everyone else is doing this work, we don't need to

Can we find the resources?

- Data, research capacity, funding

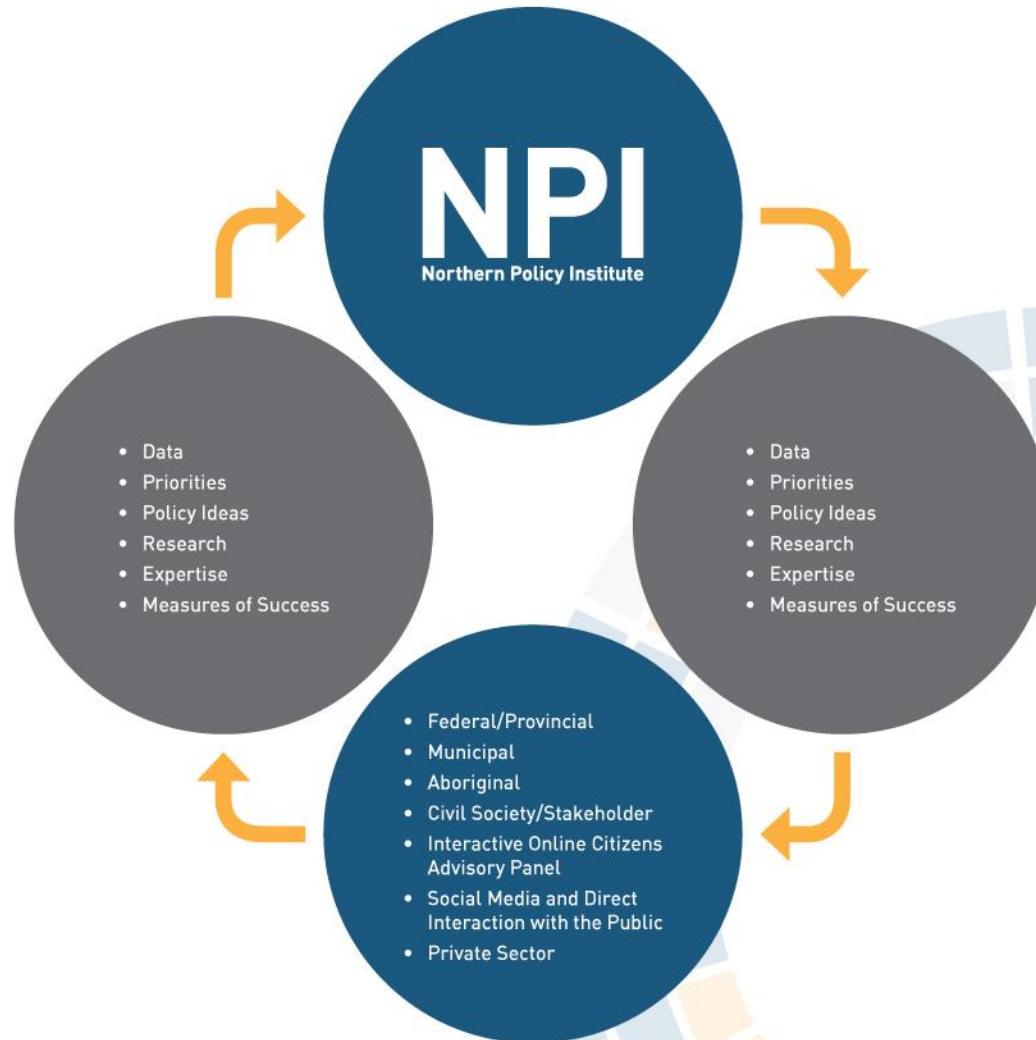
SECRET – fourth question

Is it an important policy issue?

This is where you come in:

- Are people talking about it?
 - Headlines, letters to the editor, direct feedback via NPI on-line consultation tool
- Government Initiatives
 - Federal, provincial, municipal
- Stakeholder and interest groups
 - Industry and professional associations, unions, chambers, grassroots community organisations, opposition parties
- Experts DO know
 - “Ivory tower” academics, “bureaucrats”, “vote obsessed” politicians; all good and reliable leading indicators of future issues

How NPI works WITH the Community

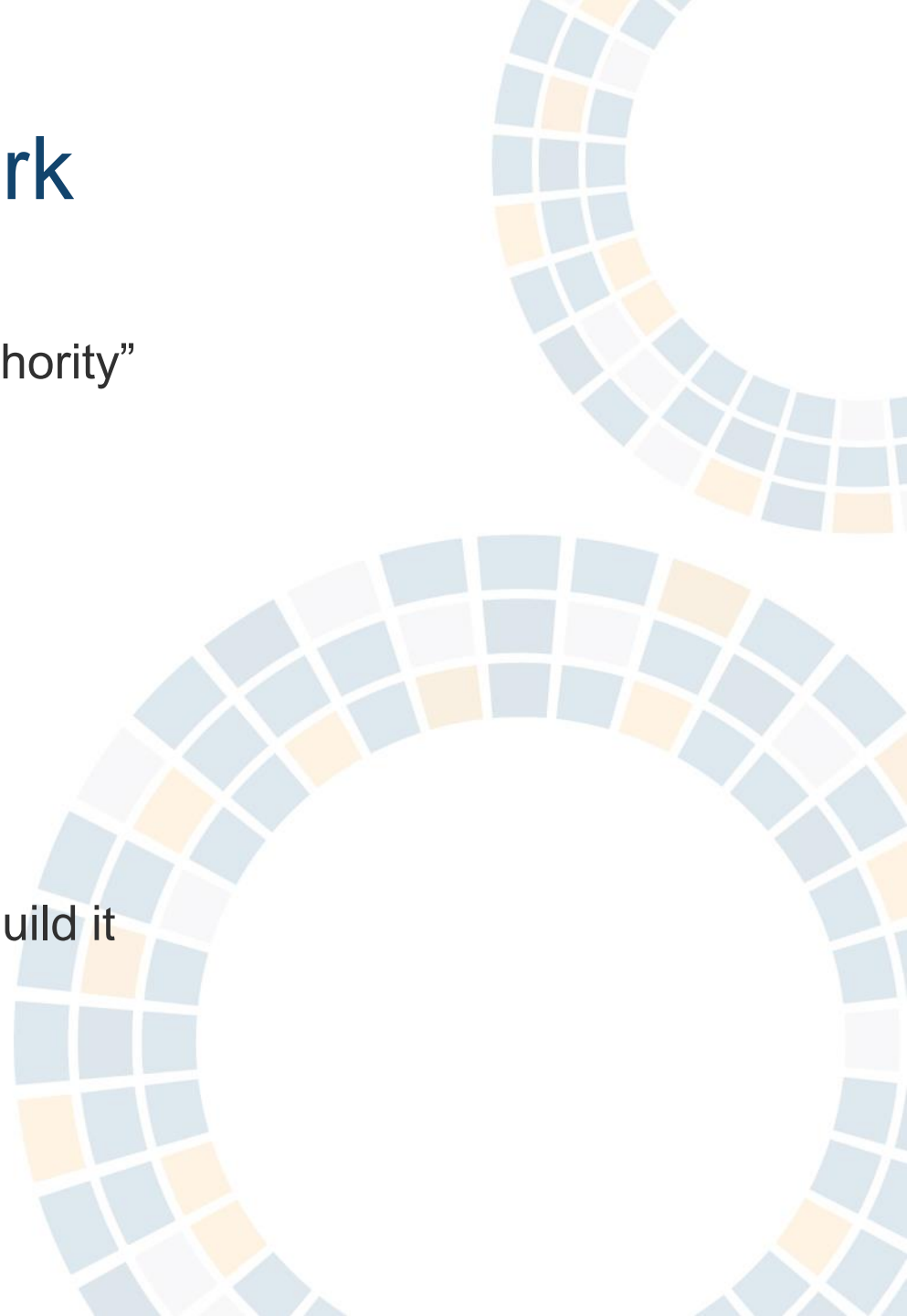


Issues we are hearing about

- Over 40 meetings and events in past six months throughout NE and NW Ontario, and beyond.
- Consistent top Issues:
 - Cost of electricity
 - Where does all the money go
 - Our communities are dying
 - Who decides our fate
 - You can't get there from here
 - Need for partnership and collaboration
 - Importance of the aboriginal community
 - Protecting/understanding/reflecting the northern way of life

Samples of our Work

- Ring of Fire “Transportation Authority”
 - Arms length
 - Community managed
 - Shared risk
 - Shared investment
 - Market driven
 - Needs based
 - Flexible and responsive
 - No “if you build it” – THEY build it



Samples of our Work (continued)

- Minimum wage
 - Is NOT an anti-poverty tool
 - Has measurable negative effects on youth and low skilled workers
 - Better to have regular, small increases
 - Occasional, large increases hurt everyone
 - Policy should reflect who is actually working minimum wage jobs
 - Need to recognize the non-monetary value of entry level and low skill work
 - Need to separate value of the person from value of the work
 - The value of the person should be addressed by society (Direct transfers: guaranteed annual income, negative income tax, welfare, employment insurance, education vouchers, universal child care benefit, guaranteed income supplement, etc)

NPI Projects Commissioned

- Review of first nations education in Canada
- Northern data bank – NOHFC, MNM, FedNor, NODN, Norcat have ALL agreed to work with NPI to release as much data as possible (now working with Statscan and other local data holders)
- Land use planning driven locally and oriented to growth vs driven centrally and oriented towards control
- Anti-poverty efforts – GAI vs the min wage vs other individual supports and interventions
- A “Road Map” for the Ring of Fire?; A History of similar projects and their timelines and lessons

Projects Commissioned (continued)

- A better way to “set” minimum wage – average industrial wage vs GDP
- Income splitting for parents with children under 18 – a(n) (Northern?) Ontario mirror to the federal 2015 plan or a better (Northern?) alternative
- Demographic trends and 50 year projections– and potential policy responses
- A comparative analysis Northern Ontario versus other rural and remote regions – how do we stack up?
- ROI – are NOHFC and FedNor “working”?
- One of these things is not like the others – variances between FedNor and other Federal regional development agencies – good or bad?

Reach out, anytime

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BEFORE you call us

There is a BIG difference between:

- “working WITH a Policy Institute” and “HIRING a consultant”

Independent means just that - look at terms of reference:

- “impact assessment of provincial owned and operated road to Ring of Fire” = consultant, decision pre-determined, decision based evidence seeking
- “assess WHETHER the province should own and operate a road to the Ring of Fire” = independent policy work, evidence based advice for decision making

Any questions?