

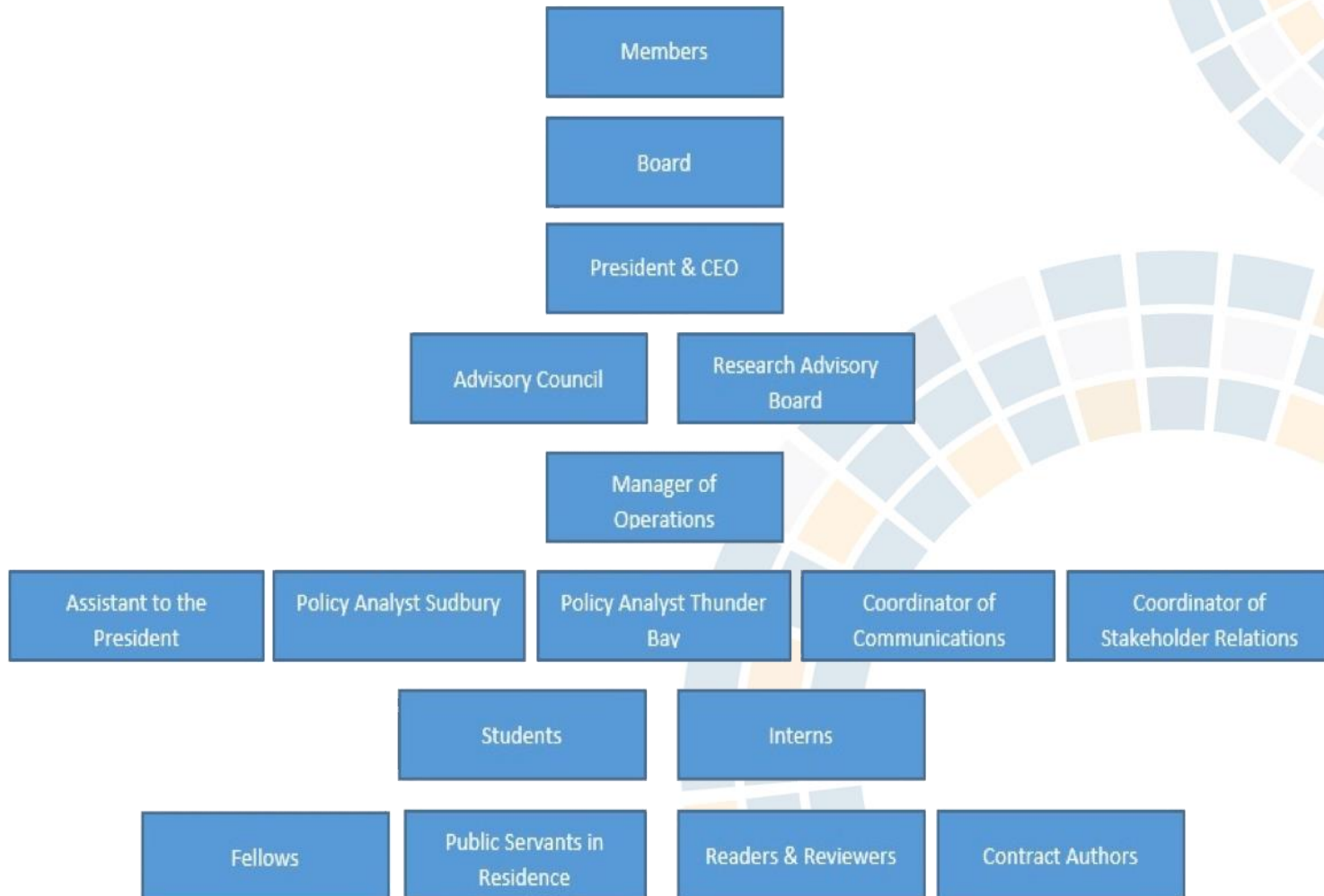
**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
NORTHERN POLICY INSTITUTE/  
INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES DU NORD**

***ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS COUNCIL OF ONTARIO  
– 12 SEPTEMBER 2014***

***JAMES CUDDY, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST***

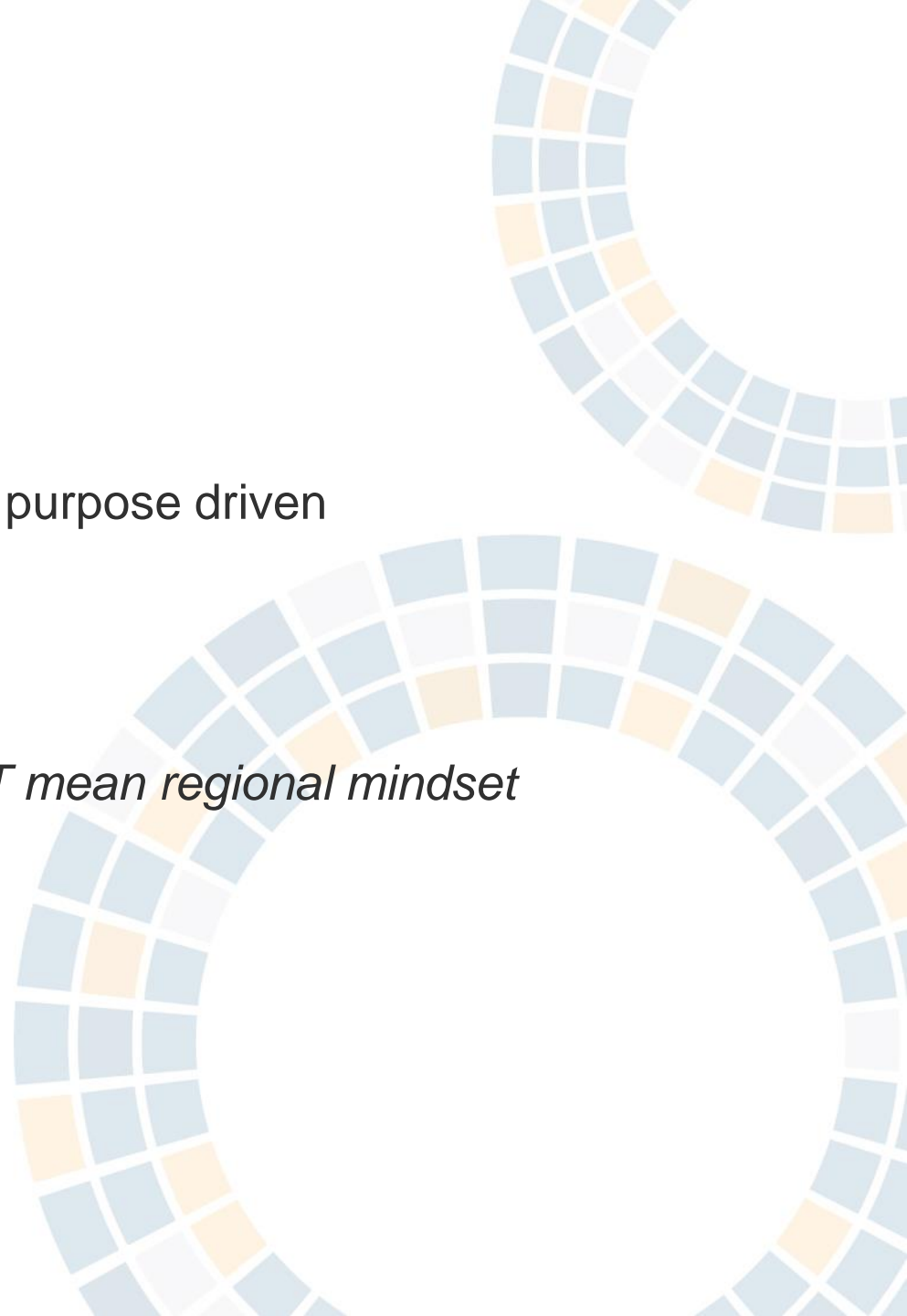


# Key players INSIDE NPI



# What is NPI?

- Independent think tank
- Proactive, evidence-based and purpose driven
- Sustainable regional growth
  - *Regional institute does NOT mean regional mindset*

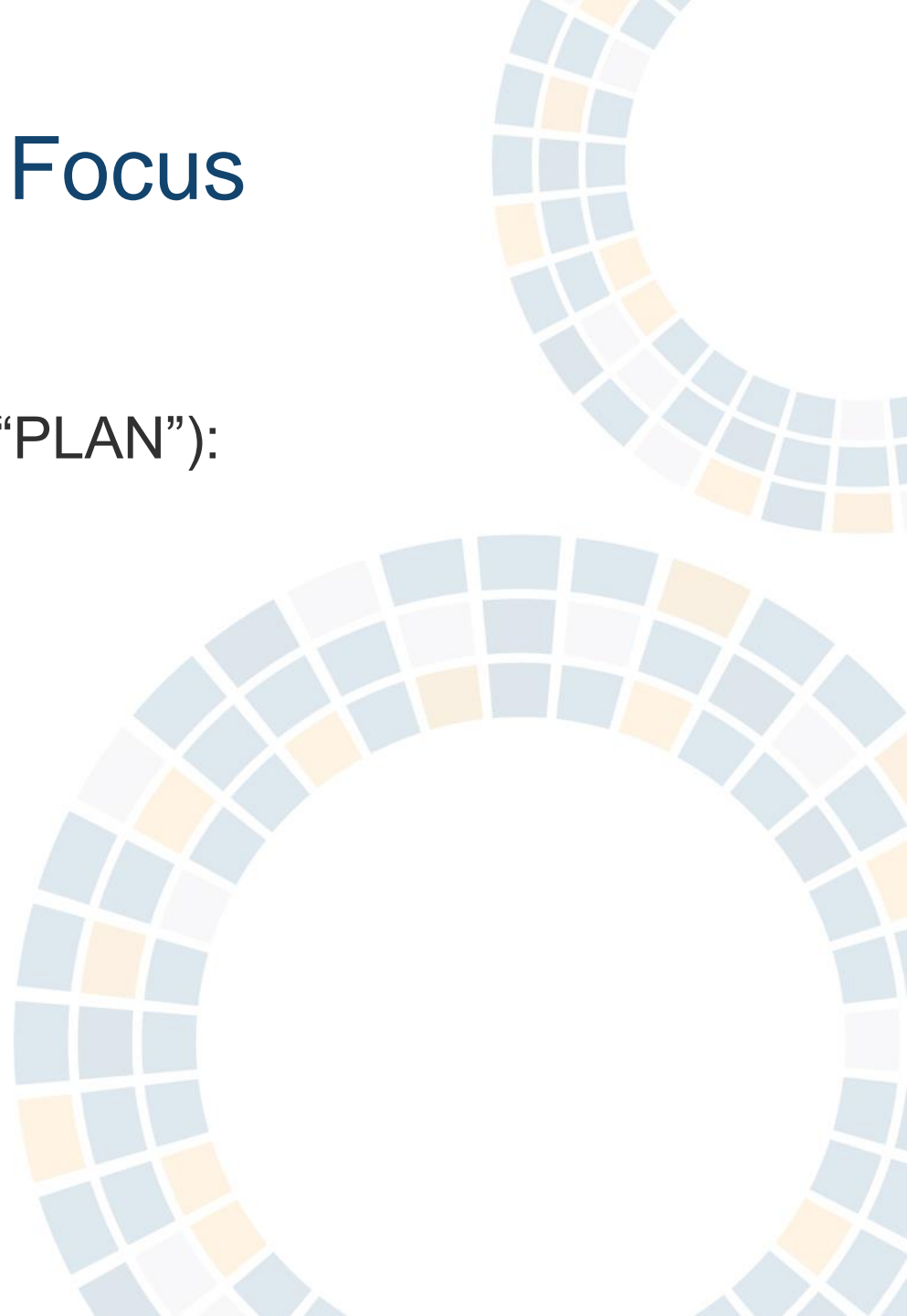


# Six Broad Areas of Focus

## Northern Growth

(note NOT Northern Growth “PLAN”):

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



# Three Strategic Goals

- Improving 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, local conversations, feedback via our on-line consultation tool, social media
- Government Initiatives
  - Federal, provincial, municipal
- Stakeholder and interest groups
  - Industry and professional associations, unions, chambers, grassroots organisations, opposition parties
- What are the experts working on?
  - Academics, bureaucrats and politicians are all good and reliable 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

## 1. Ring of Fire “Transportation Authority”

- Who will pay for and manage transportation infrastructure to ROF?
- Arm’s length, community and stakeholder managed governing body
- Places onus and risk on stakeholders rather than taxpayers
- Shared risk, shared investment, market driven
- Widely used for Airports and Ports in Canada

# Samples of our Work (continued)

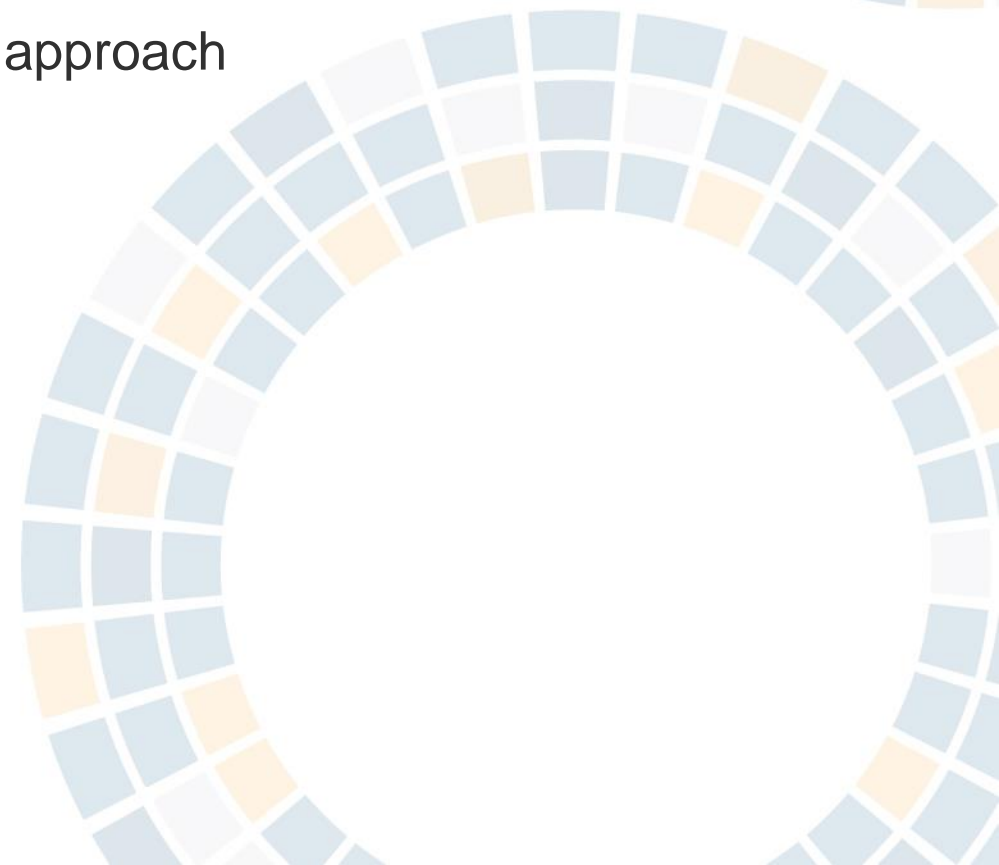
## 2. Minimum wage

- NOT an anti-poverty tool
- Has measurable negative effects on youth and low skilled workers
- Better to have frequent, small increases
- Occasional, large increases trigger layoffs and hiring freezes
- 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)

# Samples of our Work (continued)



## 3. First Nations Education

- Why the proposed reform of Bill C-33 missed the mark
  - A community-school-based approach
  - Local decision-making
  - Needs-based
- 

# 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
- Contribute:
  - Author, reader, researcher, senior fellow
- Partner with NPI

# Reach out, anytime

Give me a call or send me an e-mail:

- 705-671-6692
- [jcuddy@northernpolicy.ca](mailto:jcuddy@northernpolicy.ca)

Social Media

- Website and Blog: [www.northernpolicy.ca](http://www.northernpolicy.ca)
- Twitter: @NorthernPolicy
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Any questions?