



Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction Partnership

SPRP 12 Bold Ideas to Eliminate Poverty

Tuesday, January 09, 2024

Anti-racist practice and decolonization of the SPRP.

*An ongoing journey of how the
SPRP works as a large inclusive
intersectoral multijurisdictional
collective impact collaborative.*

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Reduction Partnership

Collective Impact Model is a framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems

The 5 Conditions of Collective Impact

- 1 **Common Agenda**
 - Common understanding of the problem
 - Shared vision for change
- 2 **Shared Measurement**
 - Collecting data and measuring results
 - Focus on performance management
 - Shared accountability
- 3 **Mutually Reinforcing Activities**
 - Differentiated approaches
 - Coordination through joint plan of action
- 4 **Continuous Communication**
 - Consistent and open communication
 - Focus on building trust
- 5 **Backbone Support**
 - Separate organization(s) with staff
 - Resources and skills to convene and coordinate participating organizations

Currently there are 180+ partners connected to some degree with the work.

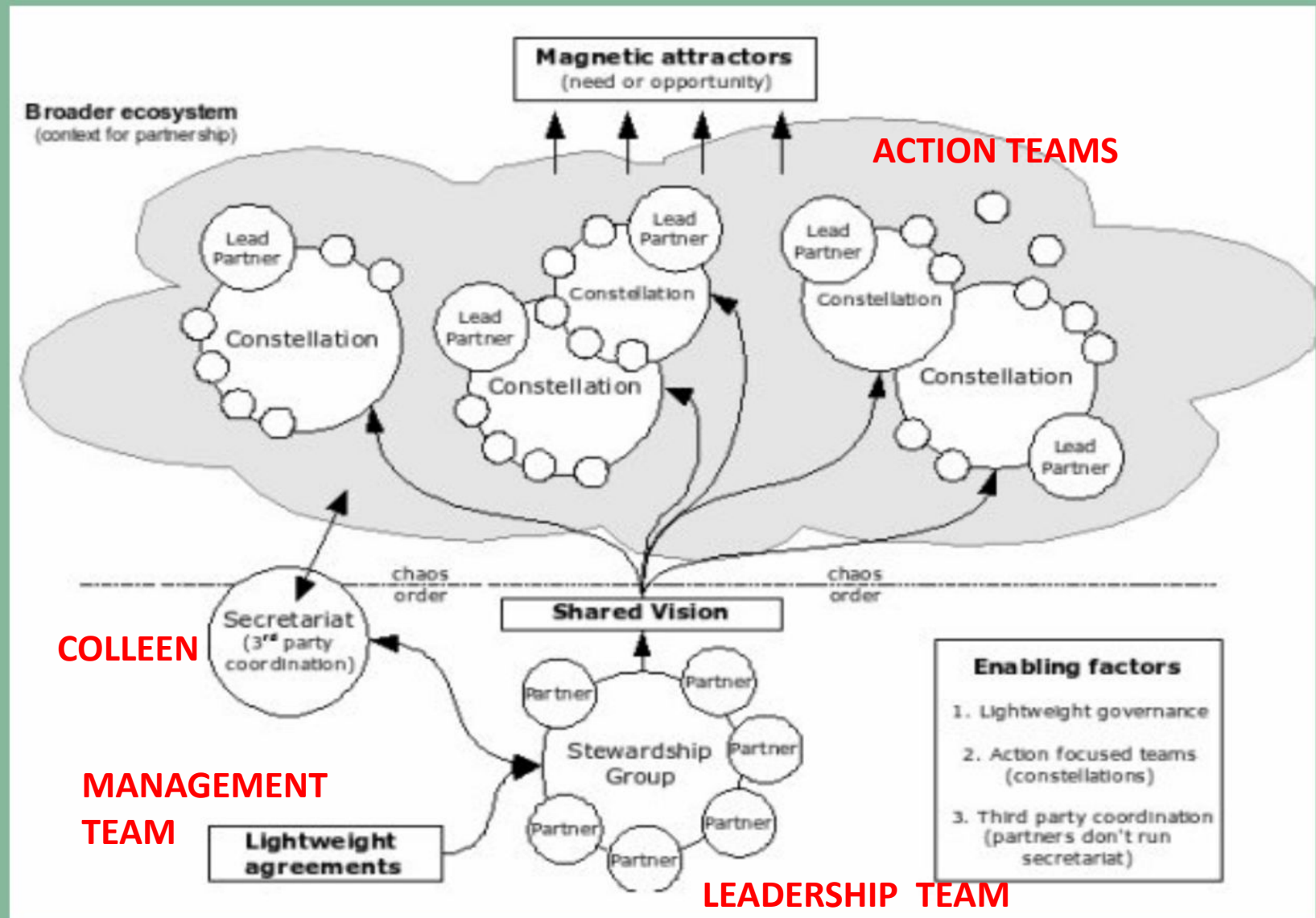
The backbone is a community agency (Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre)

There are CI frameworks within the larger agency CI Framework

We use a collaborative governance model to ensure consensus and equity in decision making

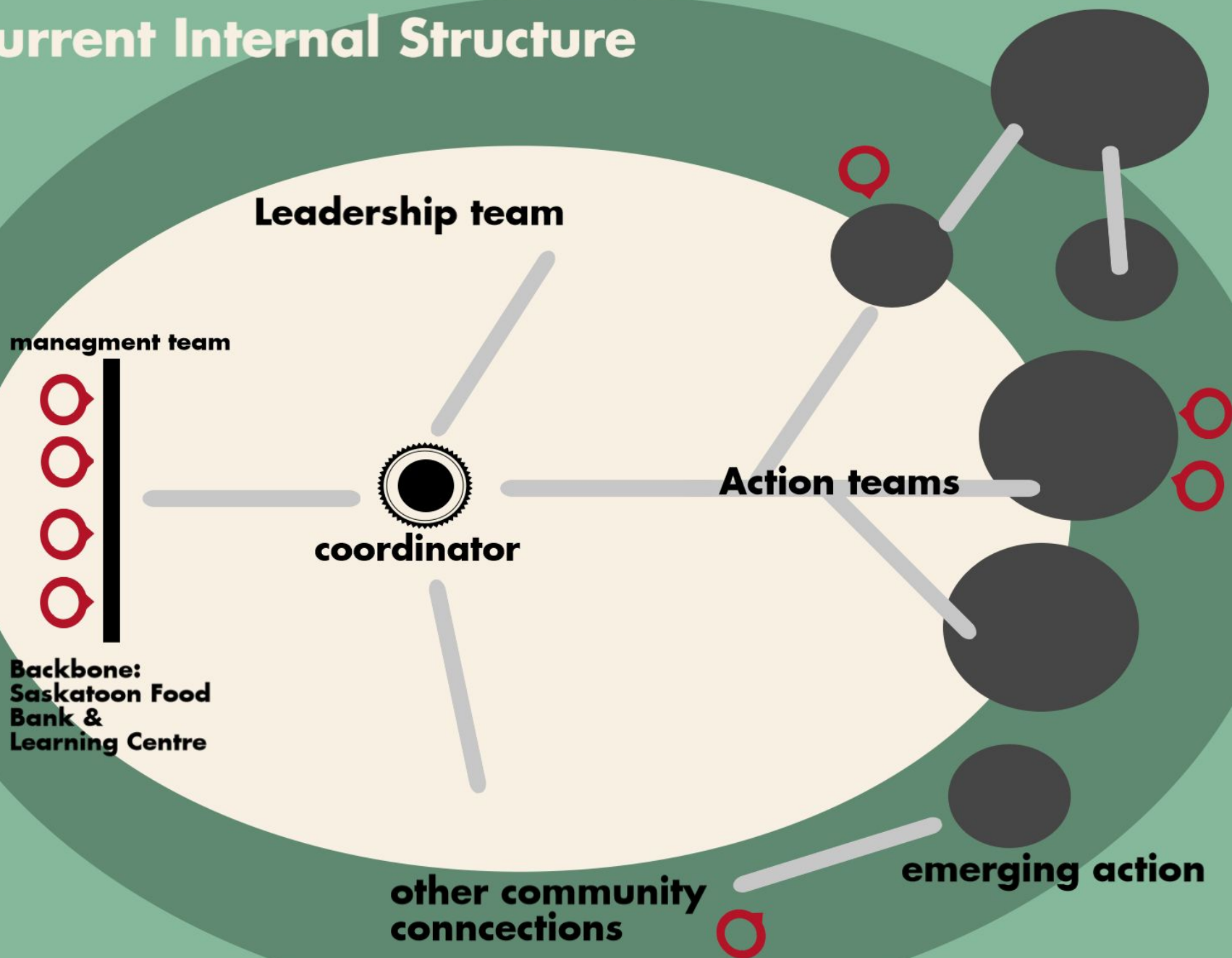
**The municipality is a funder and a participant
BUT – we have a cautionary tale around elected
vs administrative**

Governance Structure: The Constellation Model



Listening to the Stars: The Constellation Model of Collaborative Social Change
(Social Space, 2008)

Current Internal Structure



What are the ingredients that make this work?

Collaboration refers to the **engagement of people** in order to **create relationships** conducive for **solving complex issues** with **plausible solutions** for which **they take responsibility** – and **catalyze** their contributions and **assets** into **collective action**.

Relationships move at the **Speed of Trust**.

Creating **Social Change** moves at the **Speed of Relationships**.

Break these rules and the work moves backwards exponentially faster than you can imagine.

**Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership (SPRP)
Opening Statement**

At the beginning of every SPRP event and meeting we share the following opening statement.

We are grateful to the colleagues and partners from the Anti-poverty Coalition and Passion for Action Against Homelessness who developed this process and allowed us to modify it for the SPRP meetings.

We are meeting today on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place and traveling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Metis, Dene, Nakota and Dakota Sioux. Located on the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon (misâskwatôminihk) is a city with rich histories. The people of Nêhiyawak, Dakota and the Round Prairie Métis played a key role in establishing what we now call Saskatoon. We respect our ancestors and cherish our relationship with one another as we work together on a journey to end poverty in Saskatoon.

The SPRP is a collaborative group of community partners from across sectors, demographics and experiences that work in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Let us acknowledge today that some of us present are professionals, some are volunteers and some are enthusiastic and passionate community leaders.

There may be some people who are visiting – we welcome you and stop to acknowledge the traditional lands from which you join us.

We understand that we all have a unique story. Some of us may be living in poverty, or have experienced challenges trying to make ends meet. While others here are not living in poverty and have stable, safe and secure housing and income. We acknowledge that we don't know everything there is to know about one another but as we work together we respect and embrace these differences.

We are all enthusiastic to share our stories and expertise. But also recognize that sharing comes with bravery and privilege. We are here to support and encourage everyone to have a safe space to share. Within this group I see tremendous strength, opportunity and wisdom.

We recognize that many of us have more practice being at meetings and speaking publicly but we all experience uncertainty at times. We acknowledge that everyone here has something important to say and something valuable to contribute.

We are here because we are all committed to working together to address the complexities of poverty so that Saskatoon can be poverty free.

**We share the
responsibility of reading
the statement equally
and it is read (and
sometimes modified) at
every event that SPRP
hosts.**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1by pNEl6IMbPKOQmdKf HKn8C-MofS9f3J/edit>

Over time we have learned (and unlearned and relearned)

- How important the common agenda process is
- How important language is in the process
- How everyone comes with their own understanding of their normal and that is always different in some way (small or large) than everyone else
- And that this is OK – when the work is grounded in trust and the common agenda is clear
- Everyone's bias isn't a bad thing – but it can disrupt the work (positively or negatively)
- Reciprocity is a critical component bc it builds social capital

Which part of the work is the hardest (or maybe the scariest)

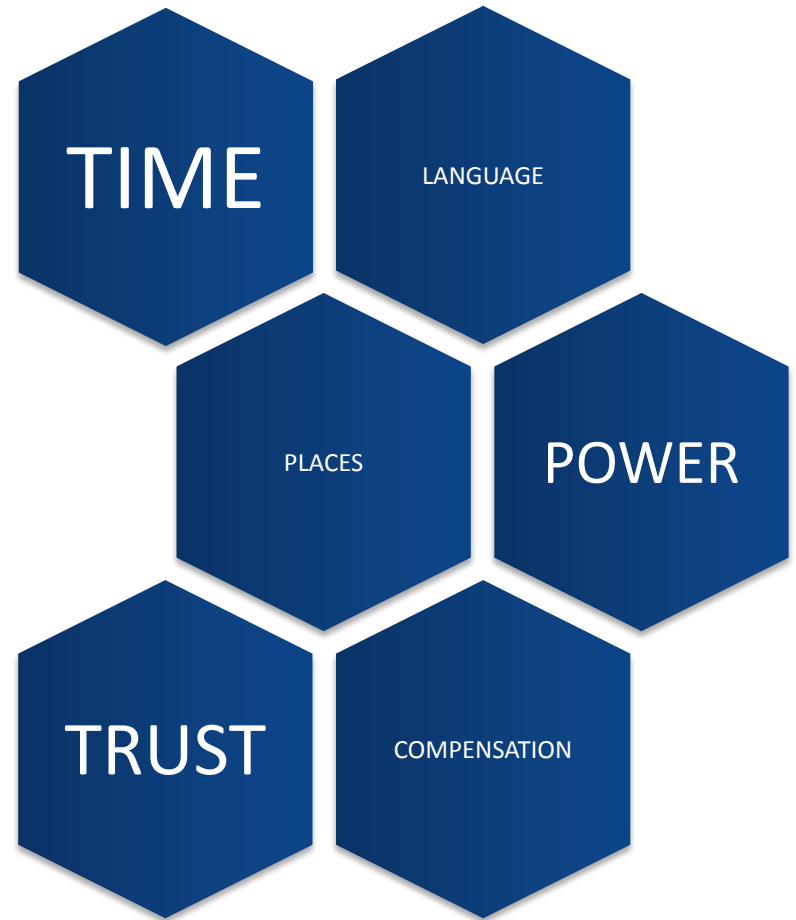
- Doing it wrong
- Saying the wrong things
- Taking it personally
- Being defensive
- Not actively listening
- Being bogged down in your own deep-rooted understanding of normal – the way it is always done

A poem about Two-Eyed Seeing

- [Etuaptmumk: Two-Eyed Seeing | Rebecca Thomas | TEDxNSCCWaterfront \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Did you hear language that made You:
 - Uncomfortable? Excited? Worried?

How can you pivot from “inclusion” to Two-Eyed Seeing?

What does it look like when we stop and ask WHY people aren't engaged?



1

THE COST FRAMING

This framing argues that poverty should be reduced because inaction costs more. While well intentioned, the framing puts a price on poverty reduction and therefore provides a logical loophole for justifying scenarios when poverty reduction should not be pursued (i.e., when it is not cost-effective to reduce poverty)



2

THE SHAME FRAMING

This framing focuses on shaming those with power and authority into pursuing poverty reduction. It ignores the suffering of those in poverty and focuses on the honour of the privileged



3

THE ROOT-CAUSE FRAMING

This framing describes the root-causes of poverty. It rejects an individualized explanation of poverty and focuses on structural factors that create and sustain poverty



4

THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMING

In this framing, as long as people experience poverty, we are violating their human rights. Here, poverty should be reduced not because it is embarrassing that some are poor or that it would cost less in the long run but because people have a right not to live in poverty



Moving forward

- How we TALK about poverty matters
- How we THINK about poverty matters

At the end of the 2023 year we reconvened 280 partners to think through the 12 Bold Ideas – and create re-energizing of the priorities – considering our recent Anti-Racism priorities

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kfWYAOEGeNH0soKJ6RY_aGAqKc7UirNs/view?usp=sharing