

Pathways for scaling up population interventions: advancing science and practice through a participatory realist review

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CENTRE FOR
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HEALTH IMPACT

Founded by:



Canadian
Cancer
Society

Société
canadienne
du cancer



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Co-authors and Collaborators

Propel colleagues: Dr Cameron Willis, Lisa Stockton, Aneta Abramowicz, Dana Zummach

Organizational collaborators: Public Health Agency of Canada (Dr Kerry Robinson), Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation...

Individual collaborators: Dr Allan Best, Dr Pennie Foster-Fishman, Dr Trisha Greenhalgh, Dr Brian Mittman, Dr Therese Riley, Dr Geoff Wong...

Case example collaborators: Pathways to Education, Vibrant Communities, Youth Build

“Scaling up”



Solutions that stick and spread

Presentation Outline

1. Inspiration – 4
2. Initiatives – 5
3. Insights – a few
4. Issues for discussion – 4

Presentation Outline

1. Inspiration
2. Initiatives
3. Insights
4. Issues for discussion



Presentation Outline

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT'S BEING
SAID, CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.**

Inspiration



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Initiatives

Active

- CIHR-funded knowledge synthesis on scaling up complex interventions
- CIHR-funded National meeting
- KT for realist syntheses

Proposed

- Study on adaptation processes in scaling up
- Participatory action research for scaling up CCS' prevention strategy

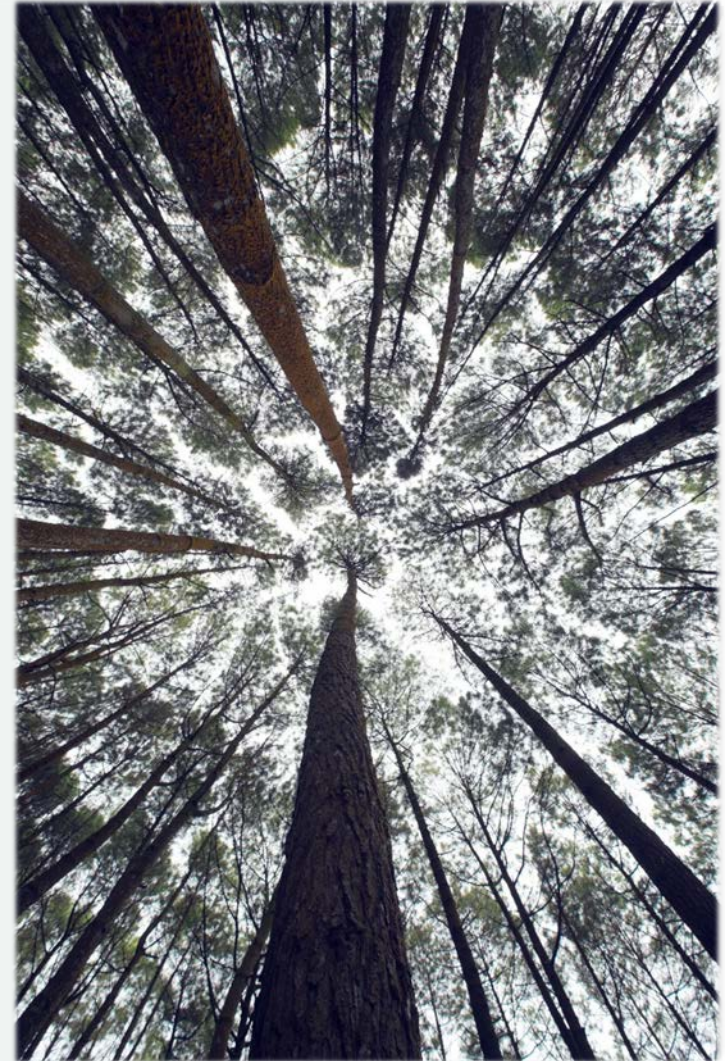
Insights: Knowledge synthesis

Research question

What are the mechanisms by which scaling up outcomes for complex public health interventions are achieved, and what actions can be used to change contexts in order to activate these mechanisms?

Methods

- Realist synthesis (Pawson 2013)
- Led by a core team (n=5), guided by a panel of knowledge users (n=10) and a panel of international experts (n=7)



Three cases

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- Community based poverty reduction initiative
- Commenced Waterloo, ON
- Now >100 communities across Canada

PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION

- Program designed to increase high school retention
- Commenced Regent Park, ON
- Now in 17 communities across Canada

YOUTHBUILD

- Engage youth in rebuilding community dwellings and buildings
- Commenced Harlem, US
- Now 260 programs in 46 US states

CLUSTER SEARCHING

1. Key citation
2. References list
3. Lead author search
4. Google scholar search

DOCUMENTS INCLUDED

Vibrant Communities:	26
Pathways to Education:	10
YouthBuild:	20

DATA EXTRACTION

Excel-based qualitative data extraction:

Text coded as **Action, Context, Mechanism or Outcome**

4 main mechanisms for scaling up

AWARENESS

...of the need to adapt scaling up activities
...that efforts have reached a plateau
...that collaborative actions and innovation needed to regain momentum

COMMITMENT

...of a community to being a part of the initiative
...of an initiative/individual to address the needs of a community
...of funders to support the initiative
...of champions to support the initiative

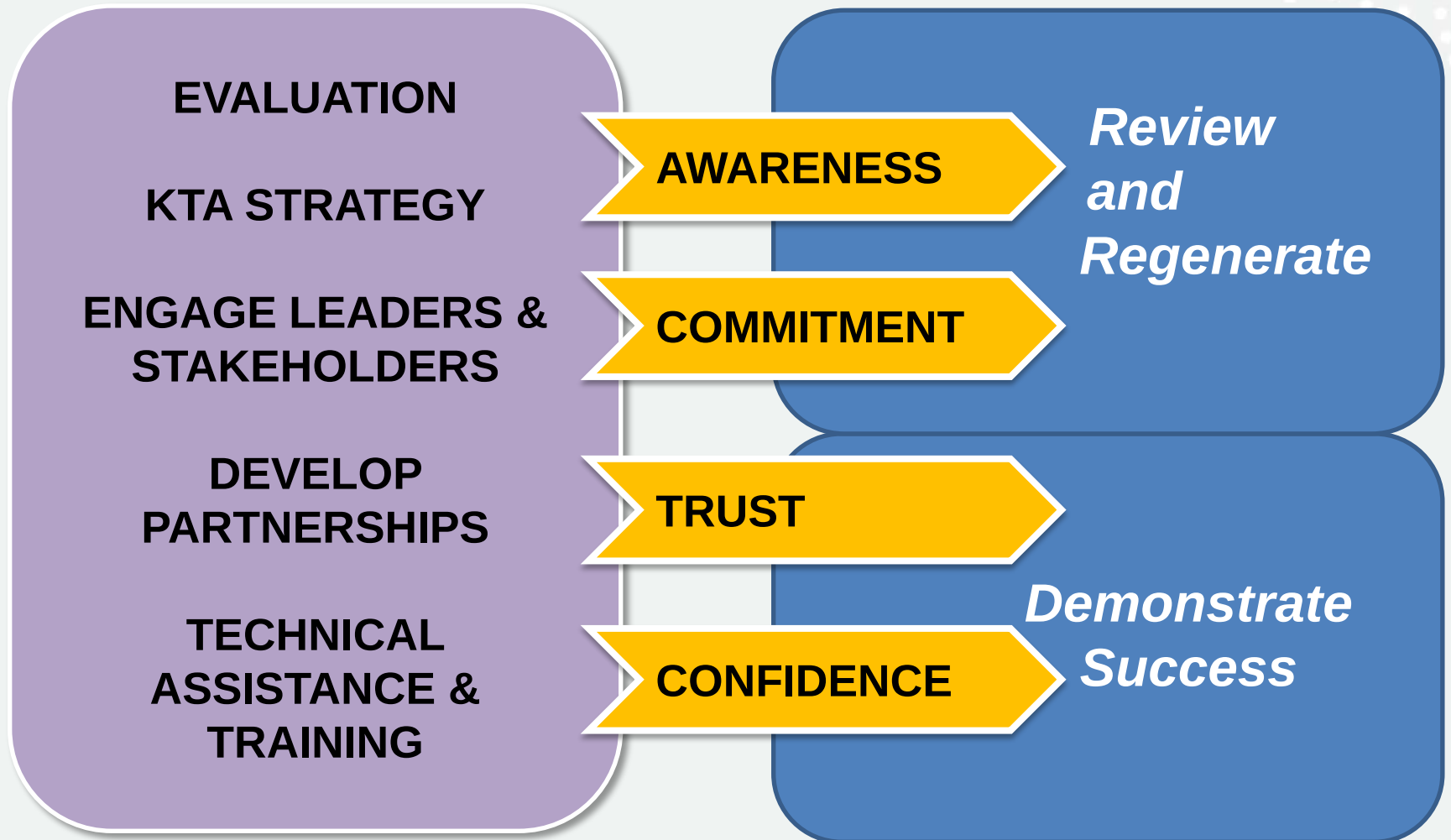
CONFIDENCE

...in the effectiveness of the initiative
...in local capacity to implement the initiative
... in initiative leadership

TRUST

...among participating organizations

Activating mechanisms: actions for 2 main strategies



Insights: National meeting



Aims:

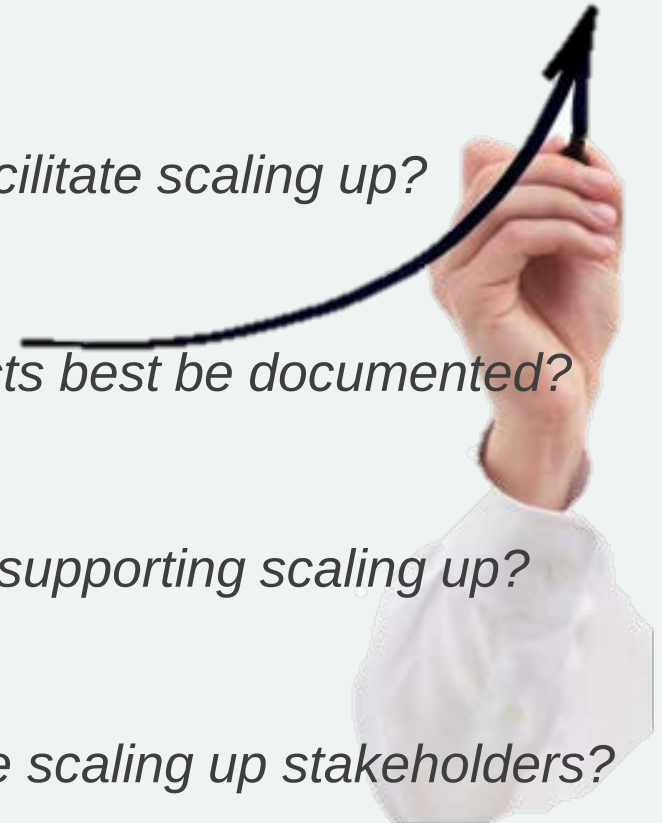
- To provide opportunity for practitioners to share insights
- To explore preliminary findings from realist synthesis
- To refine KTA plans

25 Participants: research, KU; Canada, international

Supported by: CIHR, CPAC and Propel

Scaling up program of research: Some priorities

1. Relationships for scaling up
e.g., How can relationships enhance or inhibit scaling up progress?
2. Capacity for scaling up
e.g., What governance & leadership facilitate scaling up?
3. Adaptation/renewal
e.g., How can adaptation and its impacts best be documented?
4. Helping scaling up happen
e.g., What are unanticipated effects of supporting scaling up?
5. Evaluation
e.g., How can evaluation serve multiple scaling up stakeholders?



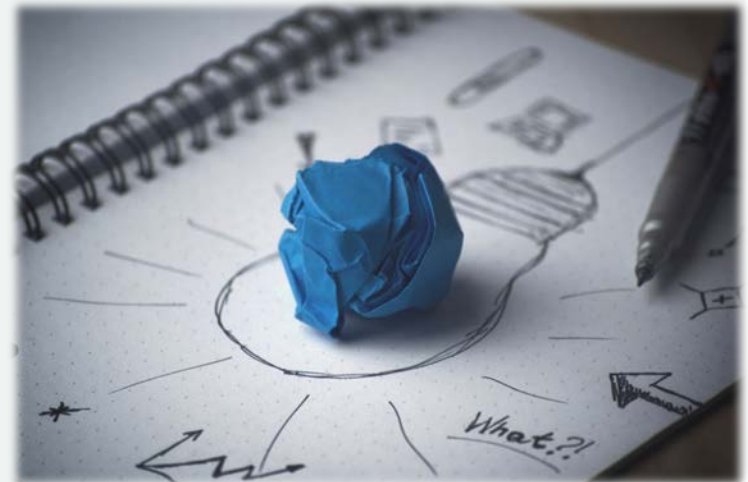
Insights: KT for realist syntheses

Purpose

- To develop a KTA strategy for the scaling up synthesis
- To discern implications, as appropriate, for other realist syntheses and projects adopting a realist lens

Approach

- Targeted review of relevant KTA frameworks and methods specifically for realist approaches
- Interviews with 3 organizations from the knowledge user panel
- Design, deliver, evaluate



Issues for discussion

Use your words:

Is the language of scaling up tripping us up?

What about the language of CMOs?
What level of aggregation and synthesis is useful?

What are meaningful ways of discussing scaling up that can suit academic and non-academic perspectives?

Issues for discussion

Now with feeling:

Participatory approaches that engage and
non-academic perspectives
acknowledge the valuable
Yet those working in policy
necessarily feel they have



What can the research community
do differently to build that felt sense
of value and legitimacy among
practitioners?

Issues for discussion

Preach what we practice:

Our work points to practical experience as a valid type of knowledge, but also serious limits on how practical experience is captured.



Is practical experience
still seen as anecdotal?



How might we both legitimize
and capture experience, and
use it to inform population
solutions?

Issues for discussion

When is the “real” absent from realist syntheses?

Practical guidelines are sometimes challenging to discern from realist syntheses. We had conflicting perspectives from our academic and practice partners.

How might we balance academic and practical interests in realist syntheses?



Contact information

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The Propel Centre for Population Health Impact was founded by the Canadian Cancer Society and the University of Waterloo.



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