

Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge


**N·O·R·D·I·K·**  
INSTITUTE




*Turn Up the Volume:*  
**Strengthening Community Voice  
in Policy-Making**

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# Policy Making and Northern, Rural & Indigenous Communities

- Locus of power and policy-making is distant from the communities themselves
  - Geography, sparse populations and colonization marginalize community voice
  - Resource extractive industries have access to the 'ear' of government
  - Neo-liberalism and centralized policy making have further reduced access to power – 'turned down the volume' of communities
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# Research Question



*How can/does a community-university research collaboration 'turn up the volume' of Northern, Rural and Indigenous voices in the policy-making process, particularly in a neo-liberal environment?*



# Methodology

- Using case studies, identify common strategies/criteria/tools that have influenced policy-making
  - Three cases: 1) Hub Trail Project – Shifting municipal cultural policy; 2) Downtown Dialogue in Action – mobilizing provincial policy to support social development; and 3) Serpent River First Nation -adapting federal economic initiatives to further community economic development
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**Community-Based Research Institute**

***Building capacity in Northern Ontario***



Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) program  
*4 year BA; Certificate in CESD; Spring Institute; Off-site delivery*



# John Rowsell Hub Trail: *A place-making opportunity*

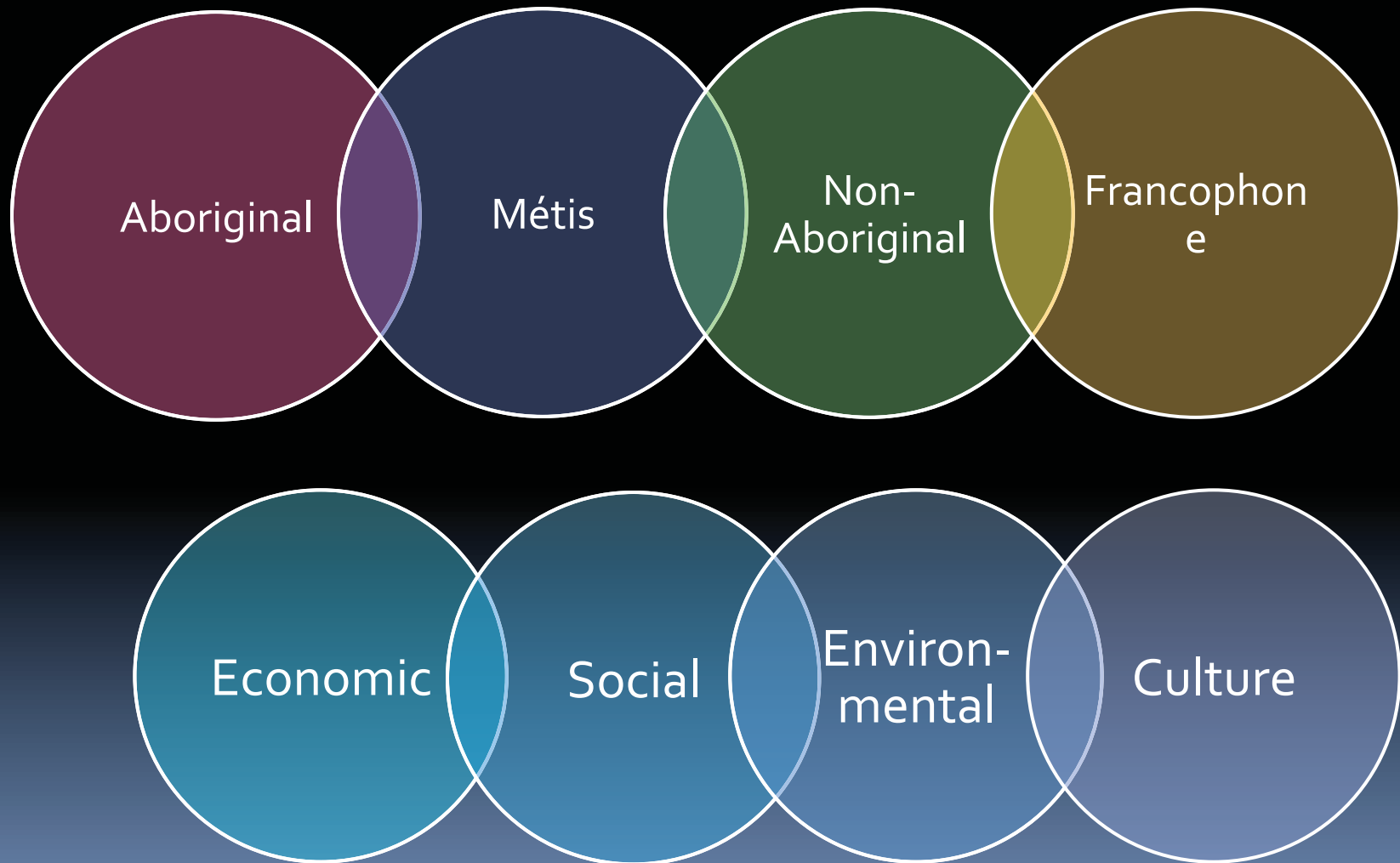


History

Education



*Creating space for sharing of divergent  
historical perspectives*



# Diverse partnerships: Building the identity and sense of place

*Respectful relationship building*  
*Bridging communities*

