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An Inconvenient Truth: Community Networks, Knowledge Translation and Collaboration

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Introduction

“There is no set time or section in network meetings where new evidence is supposed to be brought forward; there is an expectation within the network that people will bring information forward, depending on what they are working/focusing on. It happens "organically", they don't have mandates around it.”

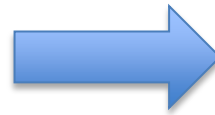
Introduction

Research Program - to determine the extent to which networks are effective structures for research use, interactions and collaborations. Today:

- Q1 Is there potential for knowledge sharing through collaboration?
- Q2 What does the knowledge sharing look like – what informational benefits are occurring?

Simple Framework

COLLABORATION



**INFORMATIONAL
BENEFITS****

Framework

COLLABORATION

trust

current joint activities, planned activities

common language

common goals

Framework

INFORMATIONAL BENEFITS

solutions

meta-knowledge

problem reformulation

(validation, legitimization)

Case Studies with Mixed Methods

- Multiple case study design (4 cases) using multiple data: document review, focus groups, social network analysis.
- Response Rates

	Site 1 (28)	Site 2 (5)	Site 3 (16)	Site 4 (13)
SNA	32% (9)	100% (5)	63% (10)	54% (7)
Focus Group	32% (9)	60% (3)	63% (10)	54% (7)

Network Characteristics

	Purpose	Function
Site 1	To share information, resources and work on activities that further population health and reduce inequities.	Knowledge exchange and indirect advocacy
Site 2	To create awareness of an individual's risk of developing type 2 diabetes and to provide follow up to those individuals	Service delivery through community outreach
Site 3	To improve communication, coordination, and collaboration among partners working toward improving and enhancing active living.	Knowledge exchange, leadership and advocacy
Site 4	To promote, support, and advance sustainable development.	Leadership and advocacy, partnership formation

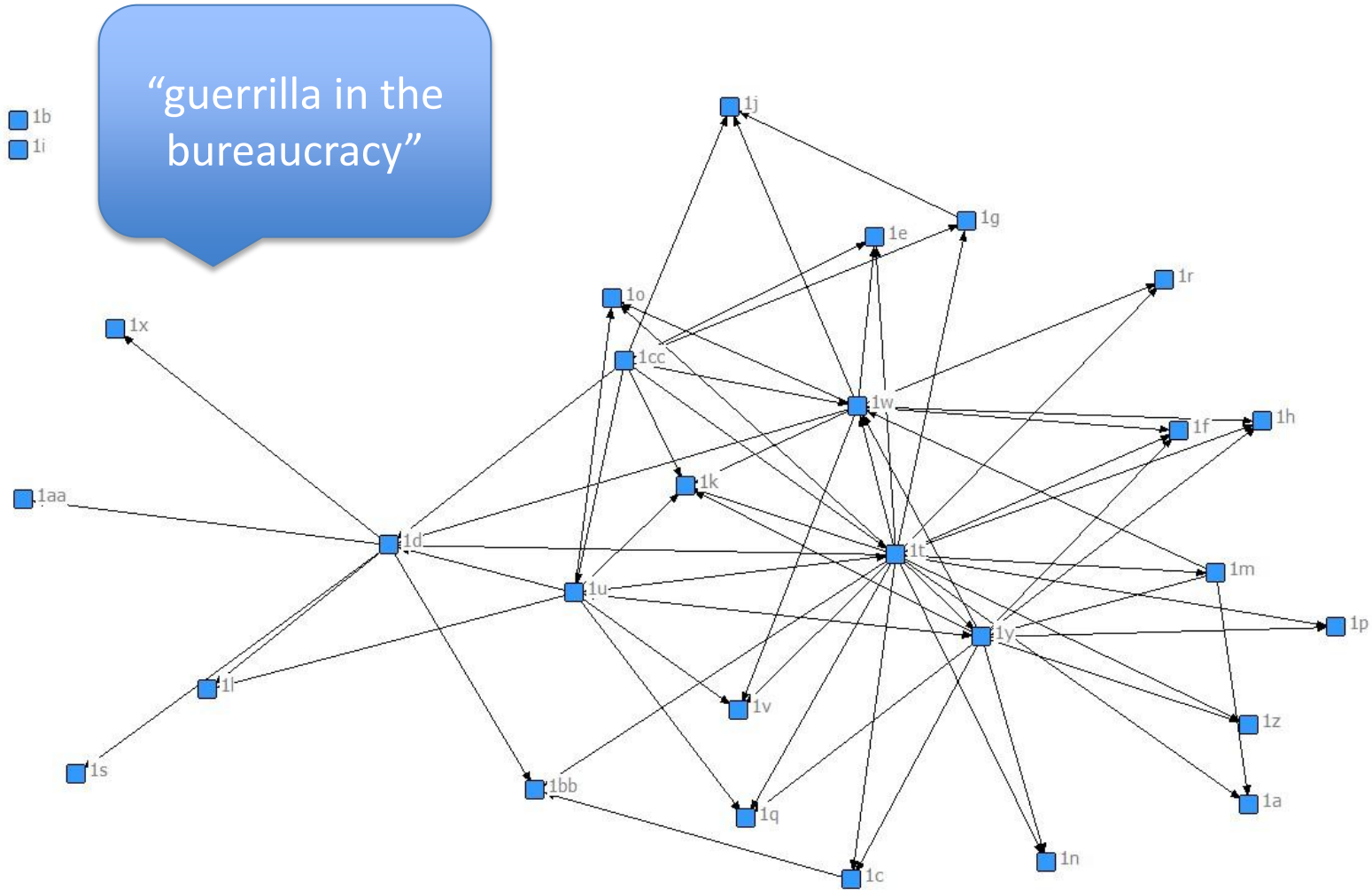
Network Context

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
Geography	Rural + Urban	Urban	Rural	Rural
Structure	Informal	Formal	Formal	Formal
Level	Provincial	Municipal	Regional	Regional
Age	6 years	3 years	2 years	6 years

Roadmap for Analysis

- Three slides for each site:
 - 1) Collaboration (SNA - language, goals, trust & qual)
 - 2) Info benefits
 - (SNA – solutions (provides general advice about)
 - meta-knowledge (provides scientific research related to)
 - problem reformulation (thinking through challenging problem)
 - & qual
 - 3) Key messages

Site 1 Sociogram - Trust



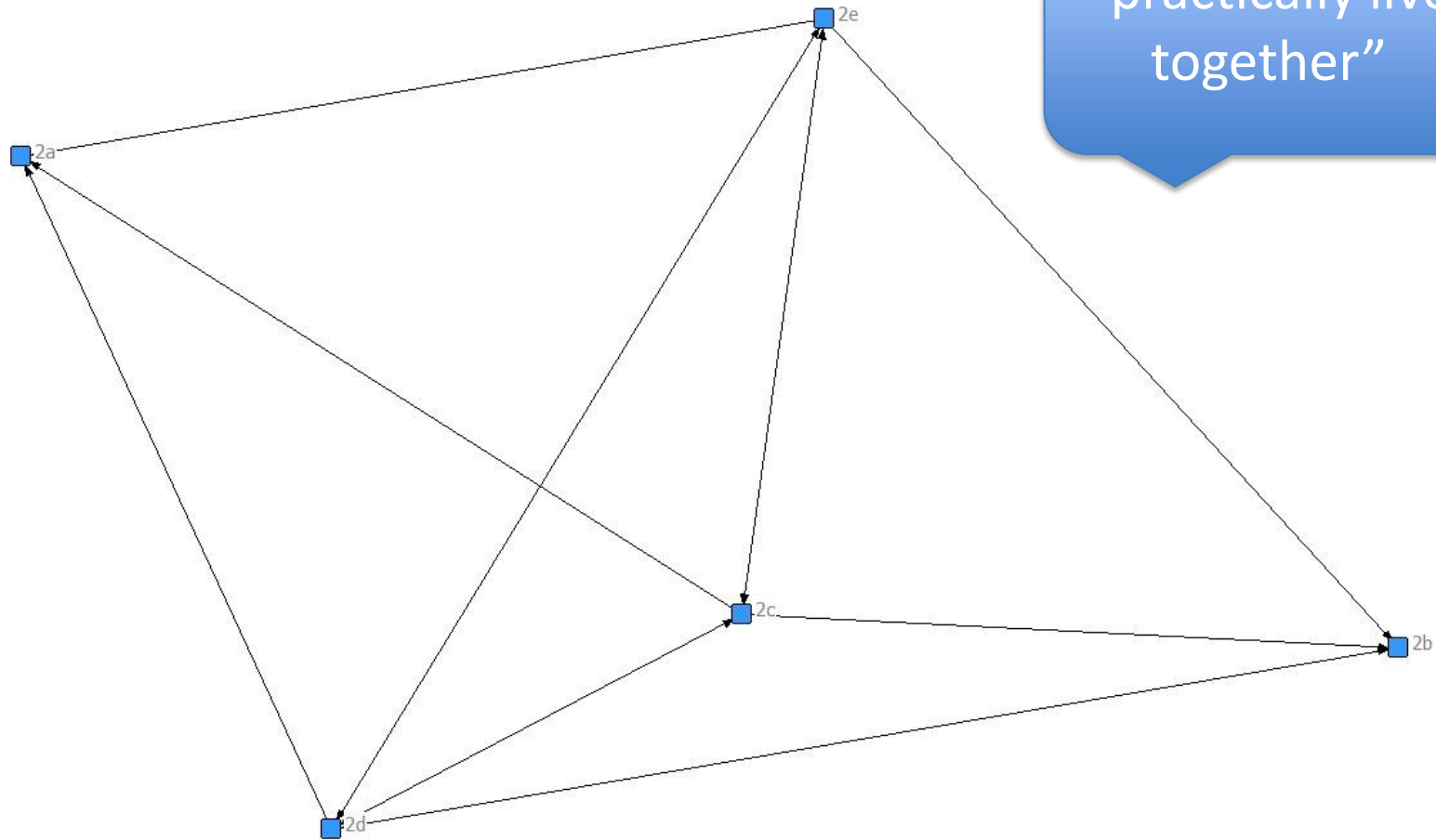
Network Degree Centrality – Prominent Individuals Site 1? Who Gets Informational Benefits?

		Site 1
Research and Knowledge	Q3 (provides gen. info)	10 %
	Q2 (provides sci.res.)	16 %
	Q5 (think thru prob.)	15 %

Site 1 Key Message

- Higher conceptual thinking, everyone an expert
- Different individuals accessed for different informational benefits. Balanced portfolio of complementary contacts.

Site 2 Sociogram - Trust



“practically live together”

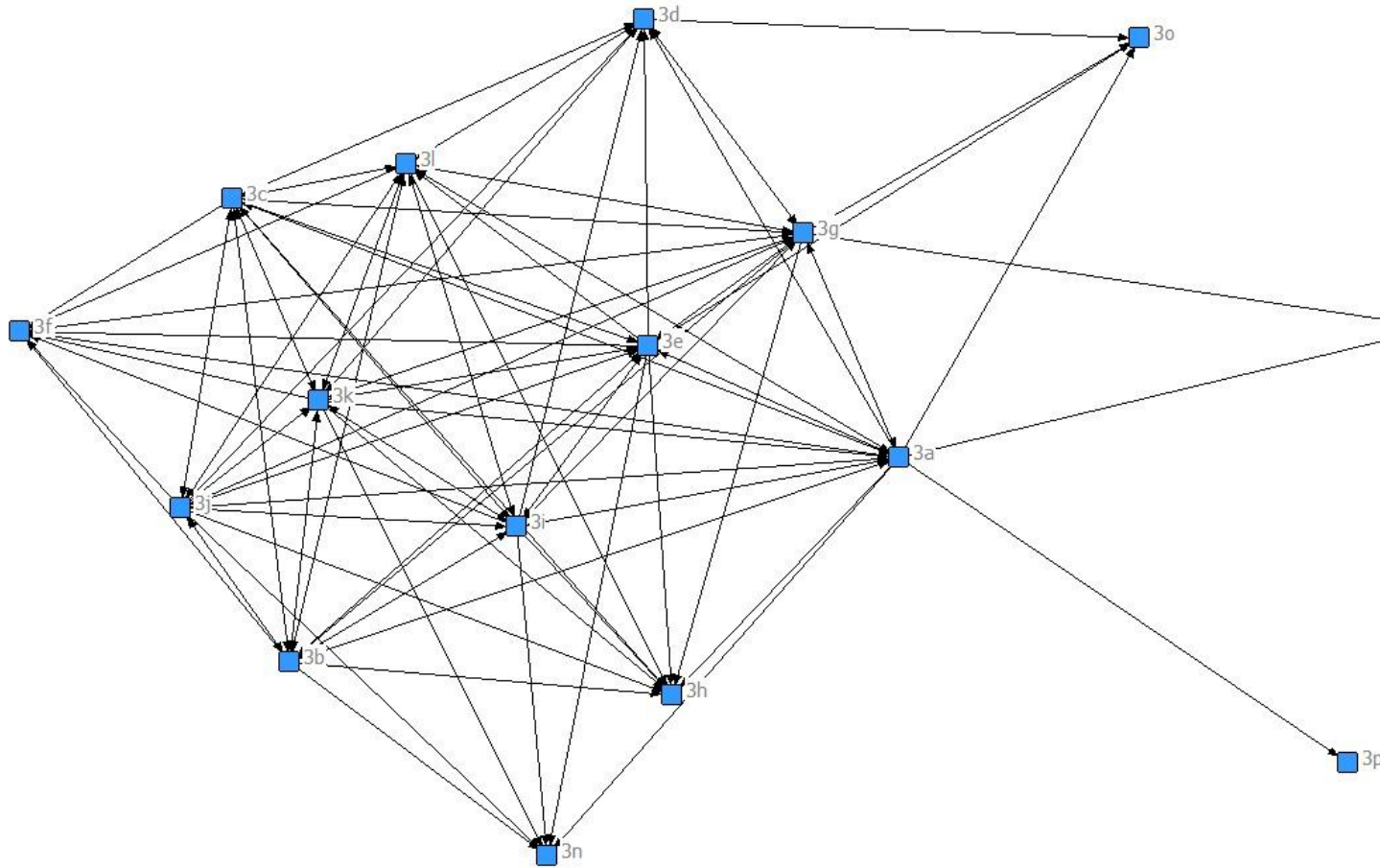
Network Degree Centrality – Prominent Individuals Site 2? Who Gets Informational Benefits?

		Site 1	Site 2
Research and Knowledge	Q3 (provides gen. info)	10 %	50 %
	Q2 (provides sci.res.)	16 %	81 %
	Q5 (think thru prob.)	15 %	50 %

Site 2 Key Message

- Focused topic area influences relationship building
- Individuals with status
- Different individuals accessed for different informational benefits

Site 3 Sociogram - Trust



“We sit together on this table, but besides this network we may have a lot of different projects going on throughout our regions...”

Network Degree Centrality – Prominent Individuals Site 3? Who Gets Informational Benefits?

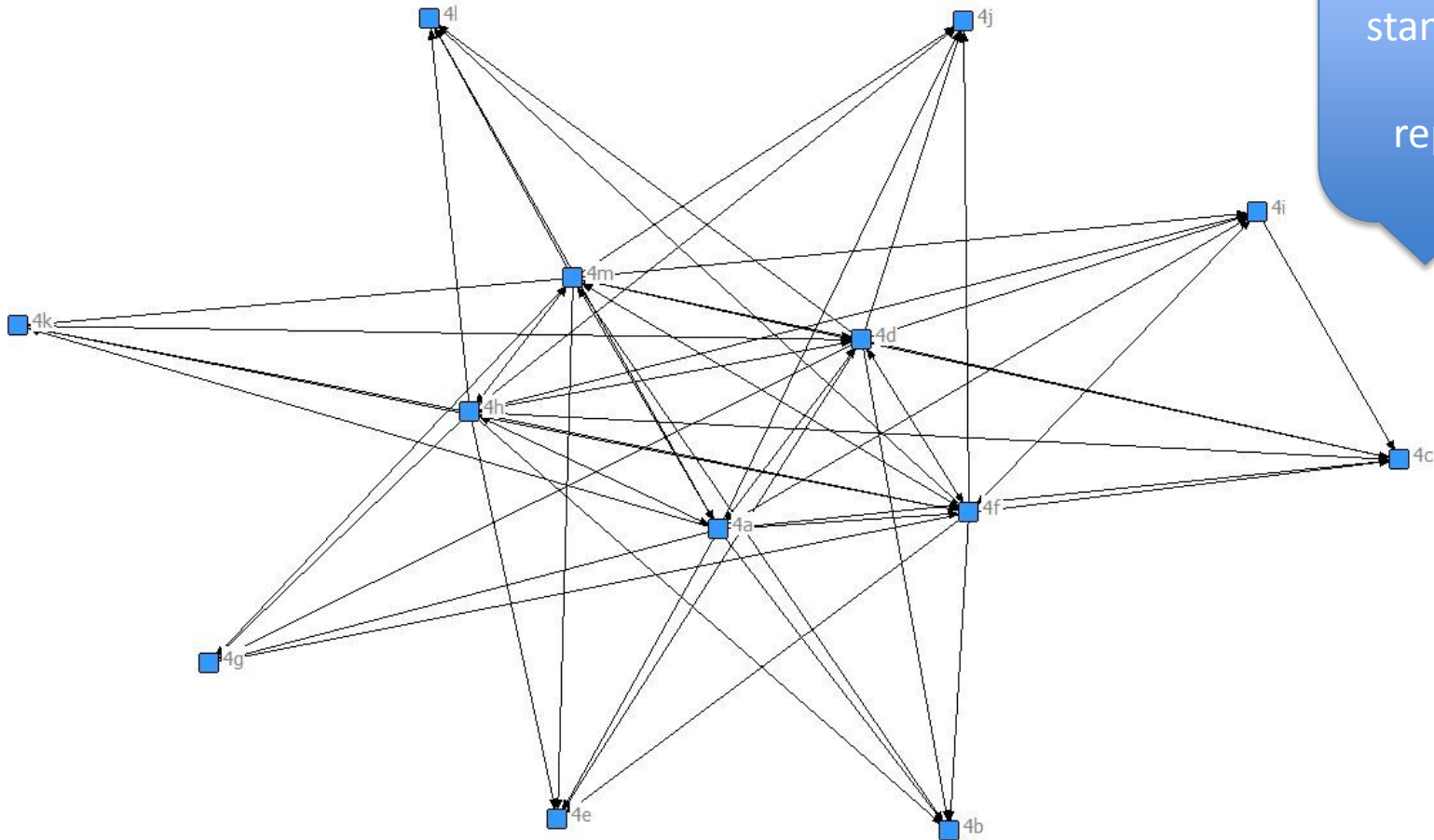
		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
Research and Knowledge	Q3 (provides gen. info)	10 %	50 %	26 %
	Q2 (provides sci.res.)	16 %	81 %	44 %
	Q5 (think thru prob.)	15 %	50 %	38 %

Key Message Site 3

- Focused topic area influences relationship building
- Strong tendency to use the same people for multiple purposes with respect to research
- Community-derived information very important

Site 4 Sociogram - Trust

“What do we stand for, what do we represent?”



Network Degree Centrality – Prominent Individuals? Who Gets Informational Benefits?

		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
Research and Knowledge	Q3 (provides gen. info)	10 %	50 %	26 %	24 %
	Q2 (provides sci.res.)	16 %	81 %	44 %	15 %
	Q5 (think thru prob.)	15 %	50 %	38 %	21 %

Key Message Site 4

- Higher conceptual thinking, everyone an expert
- Strong tendency to use the same people for multiple purposes with respect to research
- Community-derived information very important

Inconvenient Truth

- Q1: Potential for collaboration and knowledge sharing – trust is high
- Q2: What Info Benefits occurring? Can we generalize across networks (eventually)? I don't think so.
- Can we ignore context? I don't think so.
- **Sensemaking:** Inductive (theory, hypotheses)/Deductive (confirmation)??

Questions?

Funded by CIHR

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CIHR New Investigator in Knowledge Translation

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