

# Let's Talk Policy

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# My Start

- ▶ Ottawa Health Research Institute
  - ▶ Health services research
- ▶ Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
  - ▶ Program and Policy Development Specialist
- ▶ Quality of Care NL

Gained an understanding of policy, how it is developed and what influences it

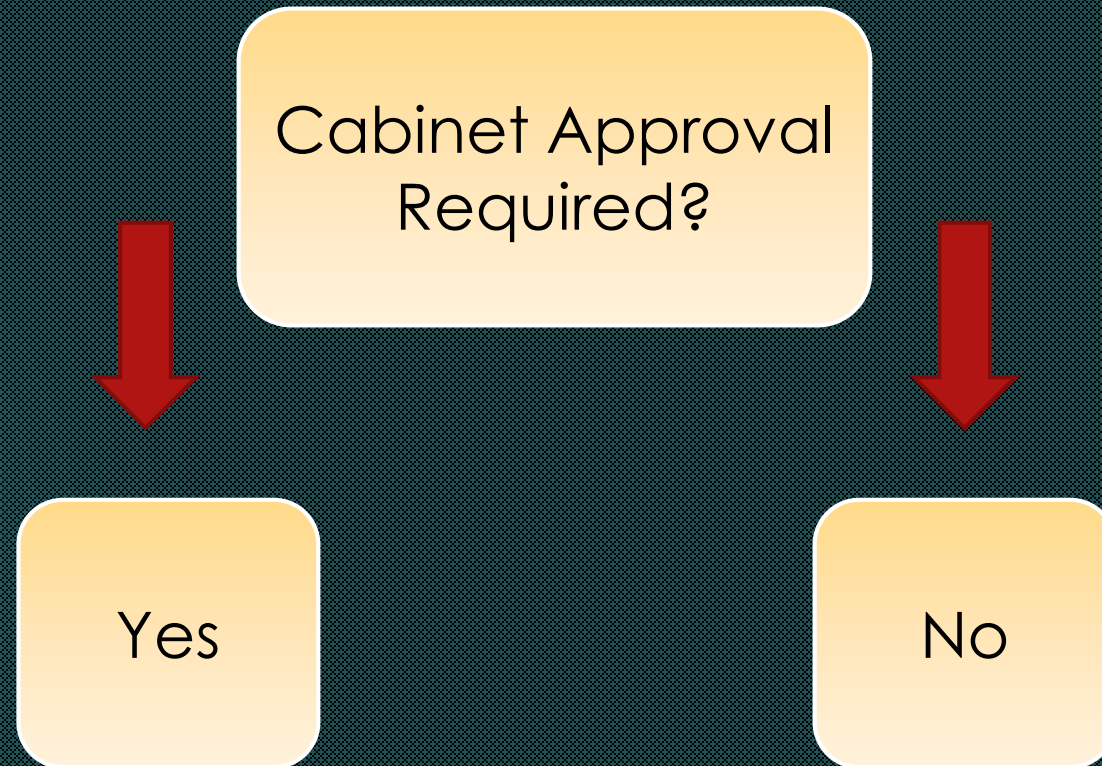
# What is Policy?

- ▶ Idea  Action
- ▶ Problem solving
  - ▶ *The Way Forward*: Government of NL's current policy document outlines policy direction for next few years
- ▶ How are public policies made and changed, and can your research influence policy?

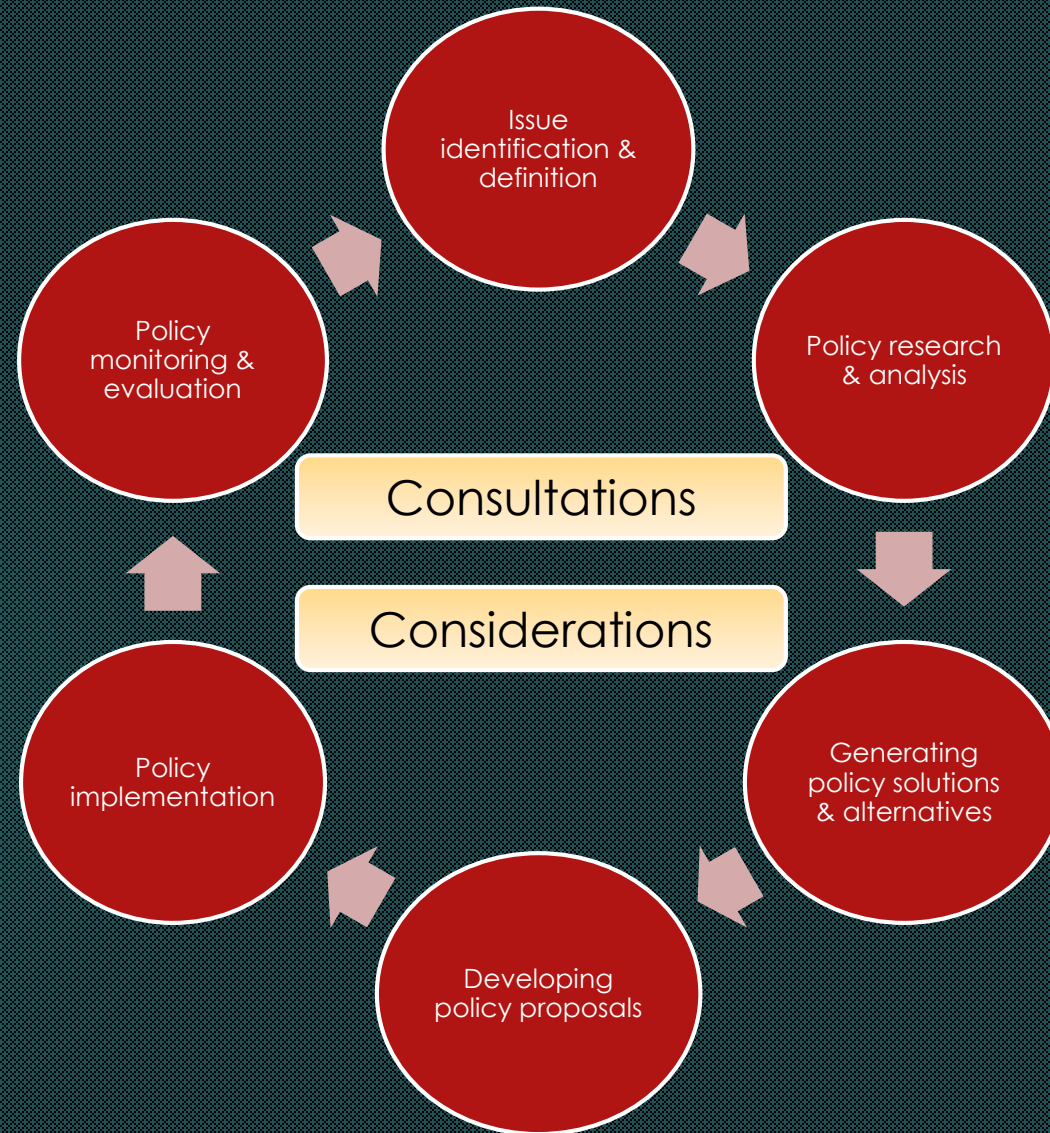
# Policy making: What Influences Government policy?

- ▶ Internal factors
- ▶ External factors – where health researchers fit in
- ▶ Itself
- ▶ Most often, there is overlap

# Policy making: How are Policies Made and Changed?



# Policy making: The Policy Cycle



Source: PolicyNL

# Issue identification & definition

- ▶ What's the problem?
  - ▶ Not clearly defining the problem could result in:
    - ▶ Not targeting the right problem
    - ▶ Misallocation of resources
  - ▶ What is the desired outcome(s)?

# Policy Research & Analysis

- ▶ This is where policy professionals work to understand the problem and develop solution(s)
  - ▶ Think about context, stakeholder perspectives
  - ▶ What's happening in other areas of the province?
  - ▶ What's happening in other provinces? Countries?
  - ▶ Available data – current and historical



# Generating Policy Solutions & Alternatives

- ▶ Decision makers are presented with multiple policy options to address an issue
  - ▶ Include pros and cons of the policy options
  - ▶ One solution is recommended over alternatives
  - ▶ How much will recommended option cost? Will there be savings over time?

# Consultations



- ▶ Involved in all parts of the policy development process
  - ▶ Who
  - ▶ What
  - ▶ Where
  - ▶ When
  - ▶ Why
  - ▶ How

Source: Office of the Auditor  
General Manitoba, Guide to  
Policy Development

# Developing Policy Proposals

- ▶ The Cabinet paper
  - ▶ The key instrument of written policy advice to Cabinet
  - ▶ Based on consultations, research, and analyses
- ▶ Briefing notes
  - ▶ Direction on existing policies

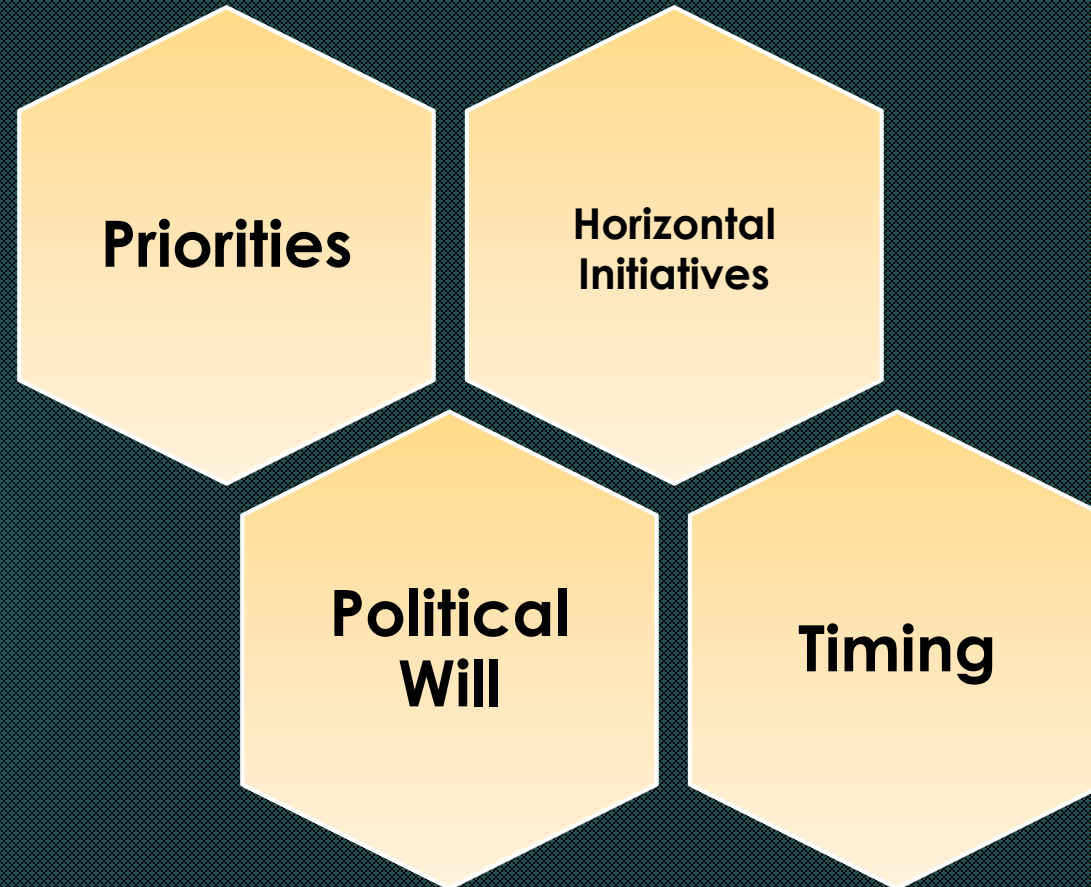
# Policy Implementation

- ▶ Ensure policy works in action not just theory
  - ▶ Think through implementation issues
- ▶ Action!

# Policy Monitoring & Evaluation

- ▶ Did it work?
- ▶ Is there value?
- ▶ Plan how to evaluate policy before implementing

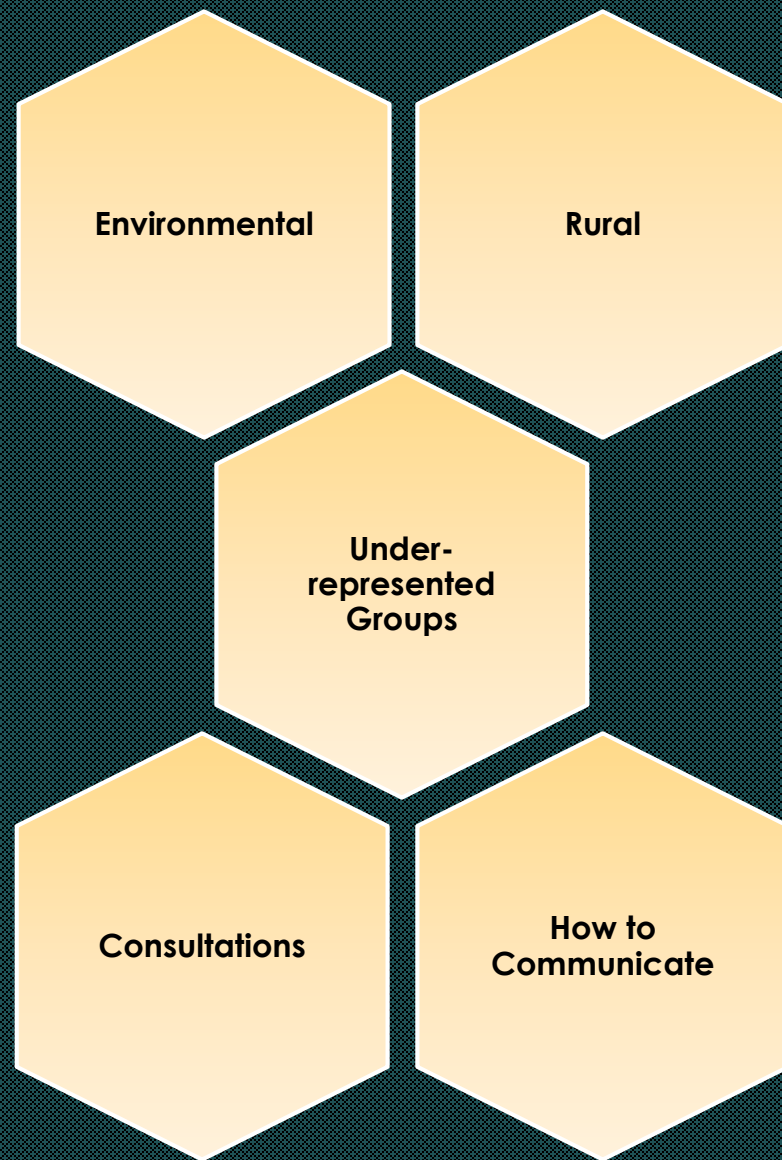
# Health Research and Policy: Considerations



# Considerations



# Considerations





# Communicating Your Work to Decision Makers

- ▶ Be brief and clear about your purpose
- ▶ Avoid technical language
- ▶ Include a short executive summary
- ▶ Use infographics

# Research → Policy?

▶ It can 

▶ It should be:

High quality

Relevant

Accessible

▶ Many moving parts and people involved

▶ Give thought to them as you consider your approach

# Additional Information

- ▶ PolicyNL
  - ▶ <http://www.policynl.ca/>
- ▶ Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Knowledge Translation and Patient Engagement
  - ▶ <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca>
- ▶ Health Canada
  - ▶ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>
- ▶ Canadian Evaluation Society
  - ▶ <https://evaluationcanada.ca>

# Thanks for Joining Me Today!

- ▶ Please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or would like to chat
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