MAKING A DIFFERENCE: PROVINCIAL POLICY REFLECTIONS ON KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION 2017-2020

RESEARCH QUESTION

Do policy makers use research evidence to design, implement and/or evaluate rural policy and programming?

If they do – what kind of evidence do they use?

RATIONALE

This research will provide critical information about current challenges and opportunities for effective knowledge mobilization in designing, implementing, and evaluating rural and development policies and programs.

CHALLENGES

Disconnect between policy priorities and research priorities.

Lack of political will.

Time, trust, and access.

WHO WE INTERVIEWED

Policy makers in provinces across Canada, ranging from senior executives to policy analysts to policy advocacy organizations.

WHAT THE LITERATURE SAYS

The movement to prioritize data-based decision-making has not effectively altered the policy cycle.

RESEARCH TEAM

The 'Provincial Policy Reflections on Knowledge Mobilization' project undertaken by Ryan Gibson and Ashleigh Weeden as a sub-component of the 'Making a Difference: Measuring Outcomes of Provincial Rural Policies & Programs' initiative, funded through the OMAFRA-UoG Research Program, which engages a cross-Canadian research team.

USING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TO BUILD BETTER POLICY

DATA + INFORMATION
= KNOWLEDGE

But whose knowledge
"counts"?

OPPORTUNITIES

Desire to connect with local & subject matter experts.

Open scholarship.

Community research partnerships.

IMPLICATIONS

The core debate is whether policy-making has ever been – or can someday be – based on objective evidence or whether evidence is a matter of subjective interpretation.

NEXT STEPS

Fully code and analyze interview results and integrate with current body of literature to explore how evidence is used, as well as how policy makers and researchers believe evidence should be used.

LEARN MORE:
[www.ruraldev.ca/
making-a-difference](http://www.ruraldev.ca/making-a-difference)