

# Co-Matters

Insights into Community Innovation  
and Getting Through COVID-19

**Discussion Reflections,  
Resources, and Links**



*Local wisdom<sup>2</sup>*



## Co-Matters Webinar

# Insights into Community Innovation and Getting through COVID-19

Hosted by Inspiring Communities New Zealand and Tamarack Institute

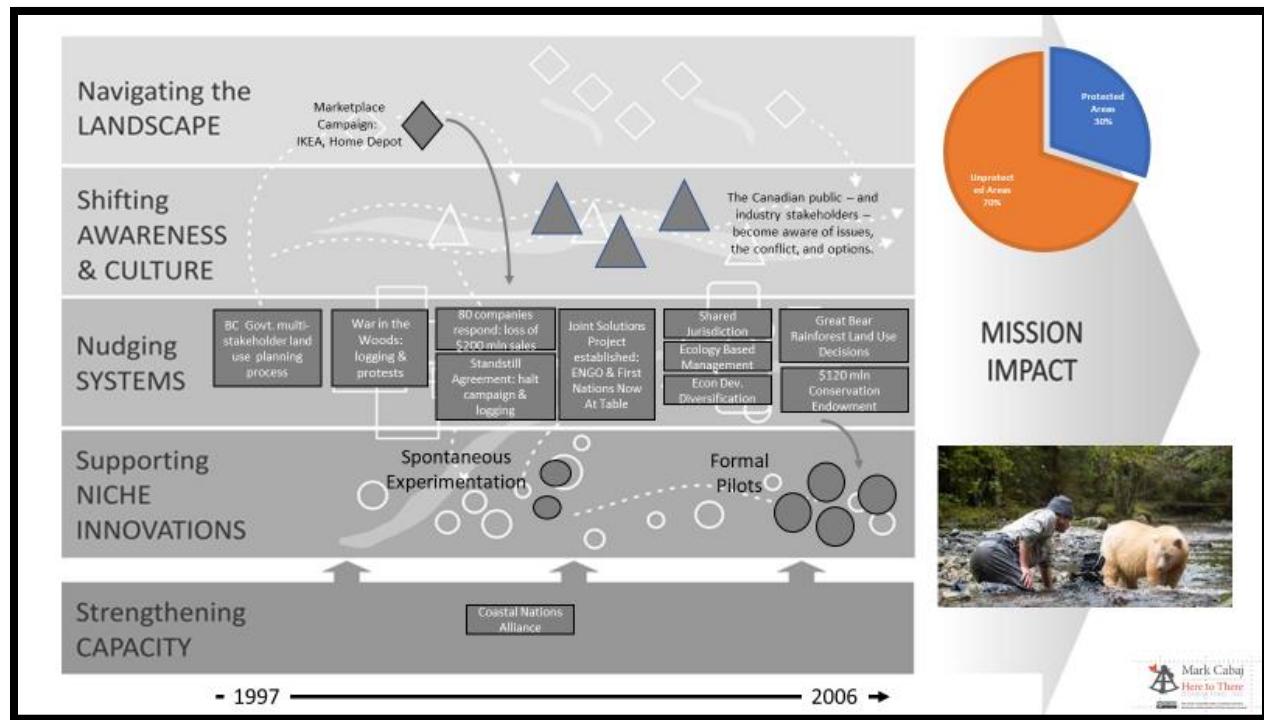
Webinar Leaders: Denise Bijoux, Mark Cabaj, Jamie Gamble and Liz Weaver

[Click here to access the webinar](#)

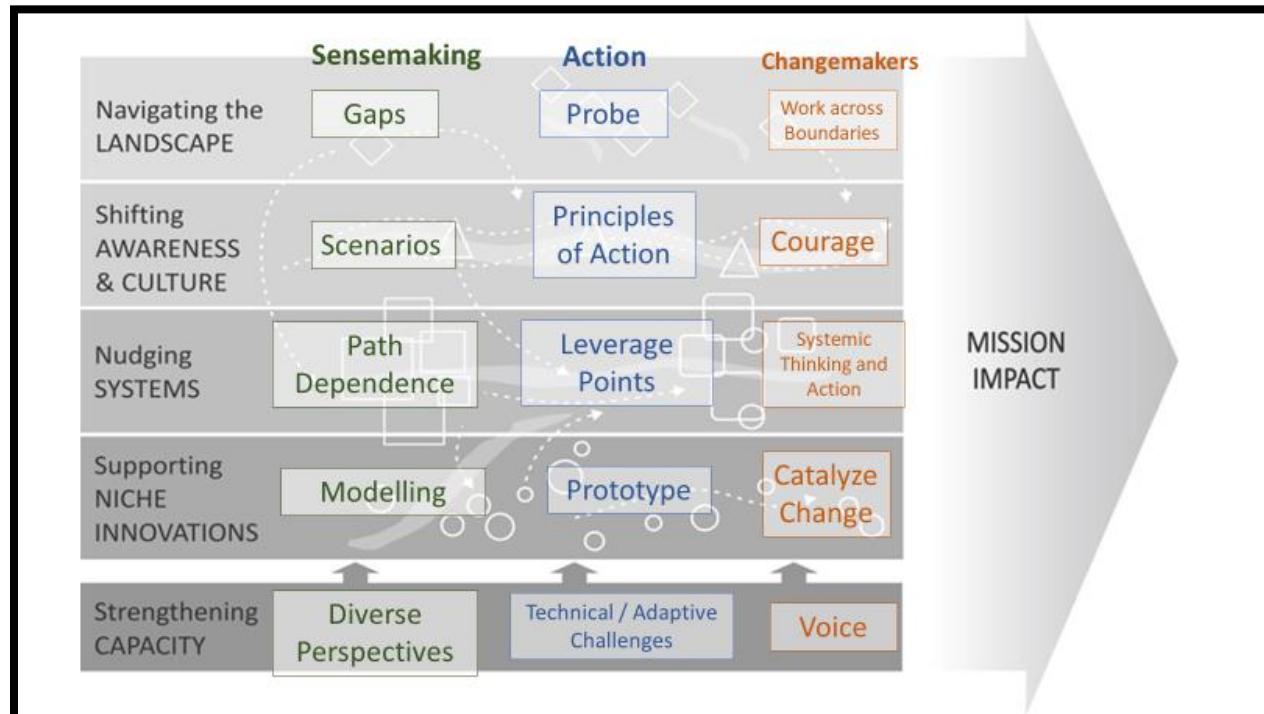
Key Themes:

- Understanding the relationship between programs and systems and their impact on long term change
- Using frameworks to navigate how change happens and apply this to the current COVID-19 crisis
- While we have critical thinking biases, based on our current circumstances, we need to move beyond these biases and learn our way through this crisis
- Using a complexity lens to view COVID 19, we need to combine a sensemaking and action orientation which could include focusing on prototypes and leverage points
- Emerging insights include:
  - We need to widen our gaze to include all levels in the framework
  - We need to take capacity and agency building seriously
  - We need to embrace both conflict and cooperation
  - We need to lengthen our gaze to look at progress over time
- To not let the innovation emerging from the community responses to COVID-19 go to waste, we can reflect how to implement Tim Brodhead's advice:
  - Charities are recognized as essential services
  - Decisive government action is critical
  - Facts and experience matter
  - Actions deemed too costly become essential and feasible
  - Citizens are capable of mobilizing to confront an existential threat

## A Framework to consider when Navigating Change:



Making Sense and Actioning the Framework – these are complexity and leadership tools and concepts:





## What We Heard from Participants on the Call:

### Resources and Links to Share:

- Link to Disruptive Times Require Skilled Changemakers:  
<https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/library/paper-disruptive-times-require-skilled-changemakers>
- Link to the Harvard Business Review article: <https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/7-leadership-principles-for-managing-in-the-time-of-coronavirus>
- Link to Spain announcement about Universal Basic Income:  
<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/spain-universal-basic-income-coronavirus-yang-ubi-permanent-first-europe-2020-4?r=US&IR=T>
- Here's the paper from Tim Brodhead - On Not Letting (Another) Crisis Go to Waste:  
<https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/library/not-letting-another-crisis-go-waste-tim-brodhead>
- Economist Michael Shuman has some great ideas too: <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-04-07/comparative-resilience-8-principles-for-post-covid-reconstruction/>
- here's a description of timebanking from our local Timebank  
<http://wellingtontimebank.org.nz/timebanking/what-is-a-timebank>
- Great Bear Rainforest case study – Social Innovation Generation -  
[https://www.academia.edu/1198431/Case\\_Study\\_The\\_Great\\_Bear\\_Rainforest](https://www.academia.edu/1198431/Case_Study_The_Great_Bear_Rainforest)
- Frank Geels – The sustainability framework -  
<https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/28415500/POST-PEER-REVIEW-PUBLISHERS.PDF>
- 3 Horizons Framework -- <https://hbr.org/2019/02/mckinseys-three-horizons-model-defined-innovation-for-years-heres-why-it-no-longer-applies>

### Sustainability Framework and other resources:

- Great Bear Rainforest Example, Mark is writing a paper on his case study this summer, but suggested reading up on the sustainability transition framework by Frank Geels, which he touched on
- Frank Geels and his Sustainability Transition Framework - the multi-level perspective - right up front. This is a much-adapted version of his excellent framework meant to focus on social issues. However, there is a TON of stuff online it (though some of it pretty geeky and more on sustainability issues!)
- Theory U helpful too; letting go, letting come and trusting answers will come.
- 3 horizons framework is helpful

### Collective Action and the Role and Impact on Community:

- Perhaps we will see a rise in alternative economies such as time banking as cash becomes scarce. We still have so many skills to share
- Lots of these emerging papers and principles since COVID are coming from very privileged places - from those with resources, time, comfortable homes, good access to the internet etc... As I connect with the community I live in, and through the voice of front line, essential workers - the reality for so many at this time is not calm, or compassionate, or community oriented. Family violence is growing, family relationships are really strained, people are hungry... and if we look at where the online masses are - there is growing trolling online... YouTube hoax information being spread etc.



- we have found that the communities we work with where strong relationships already existed and local asset-based community development approaches enabled a smoother transition to being able to adapt, respond, transition to online tools and communities being able to mobilise themselves, community led change!
- Given the current situation means we have even less understanding of the very real crises many people who were already vulnerable were going thru, and now there are more.
- Totally, so much of the disruption is happening out of sight..
- Personally, feel if now is not the time for UBI, I don't know when it would be.
- Feeling a lot of stress as a change maker to respond. Lot of pivoting to react. Really feeling the need to be careful about burnout.
- One simple idea for post lock down is to have a crop/produce share - many people have been preserving, making jam, baking while at home. We are thinking of an event where people can share some of this afterwards - so for those who don't have the resources to be able to do this at home during lockdown, they can have access through others sharing.
- For me this has amplified questions around food sovereignty and seed sovereignty- wanting to see a decentralised network of seed gardens across Aotearoa so communities manage the true source of their kai.
- I am finding it challenging not being able to support neighbours, community with seeds, food etc. due to Level 4 restrictions...
- I wonder if media not reporting on issues many are facing with staying at home is because it is upsetting and they want large-scale buy-in to this course of action at the moment...??
- We still are sharing in our street via whats app but people need to take common sense measures re quarantining items, wiping them down. And focus on sharing just what's essential not what's nice to have until restrictions lessen. Regarding underreporting about what's going on. I think it's because so much of that is invisible and reporters aren't connecting with those who are isolated etc.
- what's been top of mind in terms of the issues people are facing staying at home?

#### Role of media and government:

- Frustrated with media too. If I hear one more thing related to mask debate I will explode. Nothing about UBI for instance in mainstream media.
- Media issues reminding me of Noam Chomsky and Manufacturing Consent.
- Not hearing anything from other political parties too - thinking mainly about the left in Canada; especially where we are in a minority government.

#### Other comments:

- this was life-giving. Cheers.
- excellent. more of this. great basis for remaining sane!
- Just responding to earlier comments by Kate and others. Domestic violence, food insecurity, growing financial stress as people out of work... I'm sure others on front line know more
- Thanks very much. I am hopeless at chatting and listening at once. But inspired lots of ideas and questions. Thanks
- Thanks everyone. And thanks Tamarack for other free webinars. I'm loving them



## Your Current and Emerging Questions:

- We are a community centre that has a drop-in centre which normally runs daily. Currently, during lockdown our Manager is keeping in contact with the regular users by phone checking in to see if they need anything. It would be great to hear what others are doing for this situation.
- What place do Councils have in assisting communities find their "new normal?"
- How do we maintain a focus on changing the odds when we are in emergency mode?
- I'm interested in how small remote rural communities (like us in Karamea) are responding to the situation, especially with many offline or with limited comms
- I'm a community development practitioner. How do we demonstrate our value in preparation for the recovery/funding packages that will eventually roll out which at the moment seem to be focused on "economic development"
- I'm looking at the Uncertainty map here and it mirrors both the grief cycle and the creative cycle. I can send maps of those and how they overlap completely!
- I am from Christchurch and have experience of some big disruptions (earthquakes and fires and shootings) - my question is how to try to keep the disequilibrium so that we can create more change (which we need time to formulate together). There are those working against this (aka disaster capitalism)
- I'm curious to explore what frameworks there might be to measure whether change is actually resulting in positive outcomes (and what defines a positive outcome).
- How do we know that changes are progressive and aren't just reactive actions operating within a flawed paradigm?
- As we move (soon hopefully!) from lock down to recovery, what needs to happen so we can move from top down leadership (which we've needed) to enable more collaborative community-led responses to recession and recovery? We're going to need the best of everyone and all we've got in the next phase too!
- What leadership skills and qualities, values will be needed? Especially for those in powerful decision-making decisions with more risk adverse or political pressures
- is it relevant to still be talking about sustainability instead of regeneration?
- also interested in tips/approaches for getting communities engaged if they are either not online, or have other things (work, family, financial stress) on their minds
- Where can we most effectively influence the system re poverty reduction post COVID?
- How do we encourage shifting attention from responding to the immediate needs of the present to being open to conversations around the future and what could be? How do we share the possibility of a transformational approach to the future?