Connecting
Policy and Research

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Why governments need policy-research

An experiment: Metropolis

Some lessons and ideas

Why Governments Need Independent Academically-based Policy Research

To produce better evidence-based policy

To build research receptor capacity

To work horizontally

To mobilize stakeholders

The Original Problem

- inadequate federal capacity to address broad strategic issues

- disinvestment in capacity

- lack of of external expertise

- numerous stakeholders but no coherent policy-research program
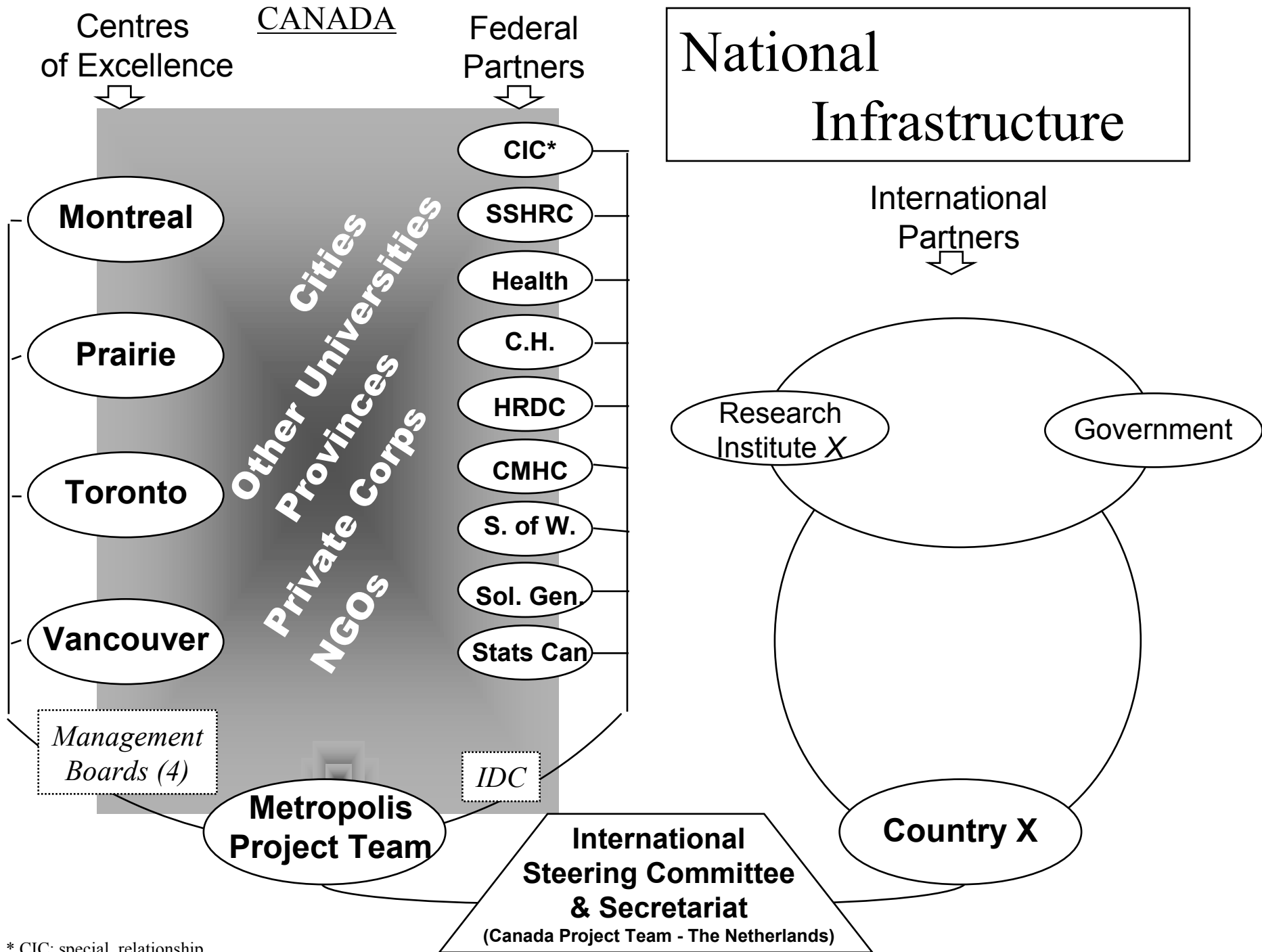
The Challenge

- to increase external research capacity

- to create a focus on policy issues

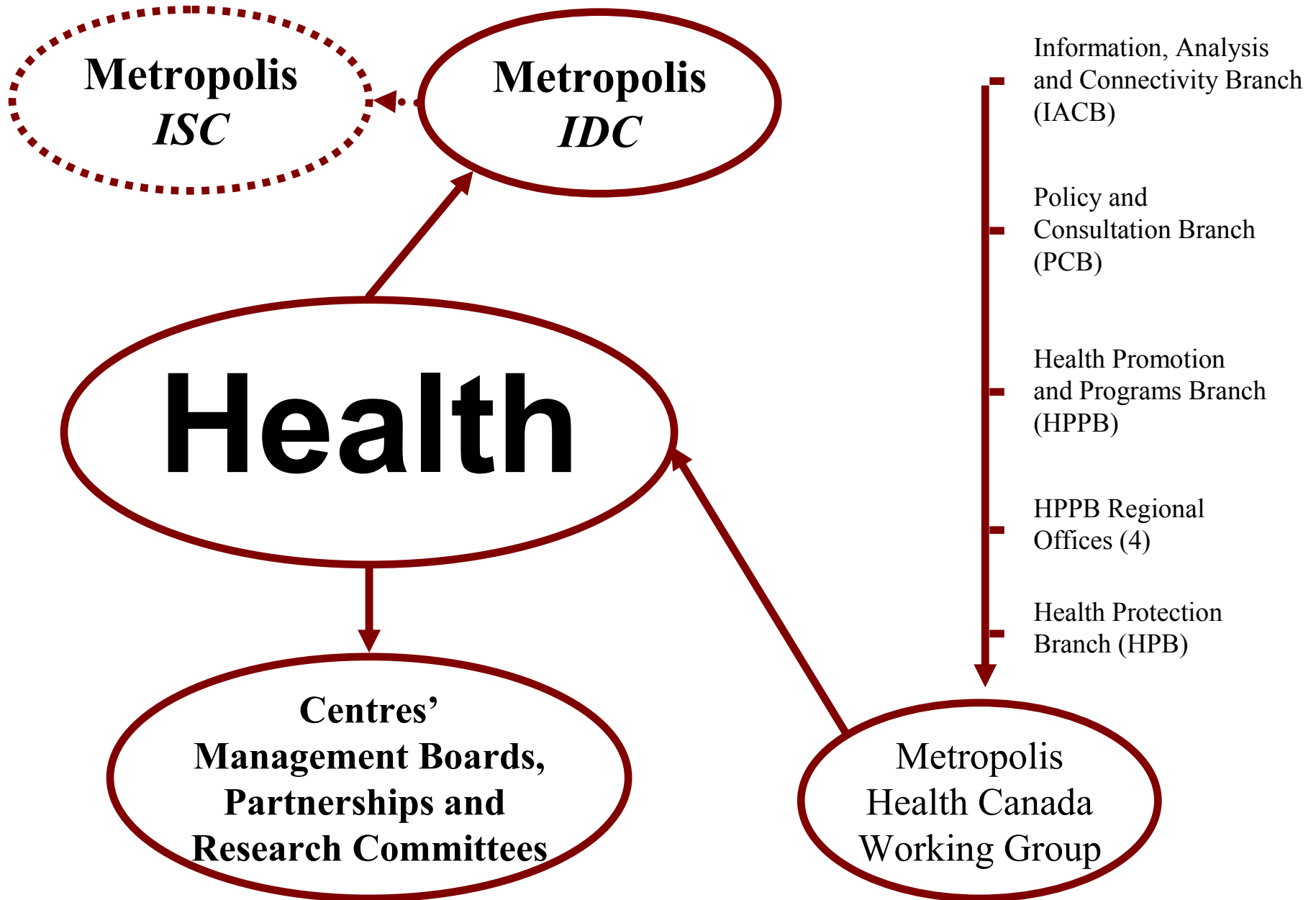- to stimulate research use by stakeholders

The Approach

To develop multi-stakeholder partnerships

To develop policy-analysis institutes

To bring them together

CANADA

Centres of Excellence

Federal Partners

National Infrastructure

- Montreal
- Prairie
- Toronto
- Vancouver

Cities
Other Universities
Provinces
Private Corps
NGOs

- CIC*
- SSHRC
- Health
- C.H.
- HRDC
- CMHC
- S. of W.
- Sol. Gen
- Stats Can

Management Boards (4)

IDC

Metropolis Project Team

International Steering Committee & Secretariat
(Canada Project Team - The Netherlands)

International Partners

- Research Institute *X*
- Government
- Country X

* CIC: special relationship

Metropolis ISC

Metropolis IDC

Health

Centres' Management Boards, Partnerships and Research Committees

Metropolis Health Canada Working Group

Information, Analysis and Connectivity Branch (IACB)

Policy and Consultation Branch (PCB)

Health Promotion and Programs Branch (HPPB)

HPPB Regional Offices (4)

Health Protection Branch (HPB)

Creating Network of Policy Analysis Institutes

- Centres of Excellence
  - five Centres

•U de M		•York		•SFU		•U of Regina	•U of Alberta
•INRS		•Ryerson		•UBC		•U of Saskat.	•U of Calgary
•McGill		•U of T		•U Vic		•U of Winnipeg	•U of Manitoba

consortion of universities
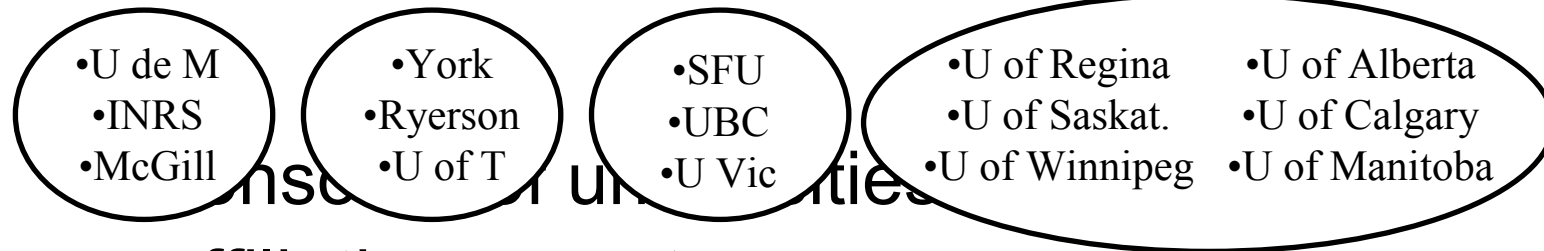
  - affiliating experts
  - 200 academics, double this number of graduate students
    - Leveraged Resources

      .

Bringing it together

Structural bonds:

- Interdepartmental Committee and local committees
- Centre management and advisory boards
- Centre domains
- International Steering Committee, Secretariat, other
- Project Team

Activity bonds:

- National and international annual conferences
- Workshops, seminars, 'conversations', brown bag lunches, etc.

...attended by ministers, officials, researchers, policy community, NGO's, service providers, private sector

Communications

- Metropolis website – Centre websites
- Newsletters
- Centre newsletters
- JIMI (Metropolis Journal of International Migration and Integration)
- Special issues of journals (eg. Journal of Ethnic Studies)
- Journal articles
- Conference Proceedings and Reports
- Videos and radio documentaries
- Metropolis Institute

Outcomes . . . .

… and lessons

- Enormous enterprise

- International prominence

- Huge volume of research

- Large numbers of graduate students

- Spin-offs: graduate study programs, training for officials and for NGOs, data repositories

- Numerous links among researchers, policy officials and NGOs (national and international)

- Acclaim for policy excellence

Outcomes

. . . . and lessons

- Different eco-systems
- University incentive structures
- Weak receptor capacity
- Modes and language of communication
- Silos everywhere
- Geography
- Timeliness

Outcomes …

. . . and lessons

- Academic engagement is essential for effective policy-research

- Demand led solutions are essential for solving policy-research problems

- Governments and universities must invest in bridging infrastructure and leadership