



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship

# How to Write a TD Grant

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TD Week

May 2, 2025

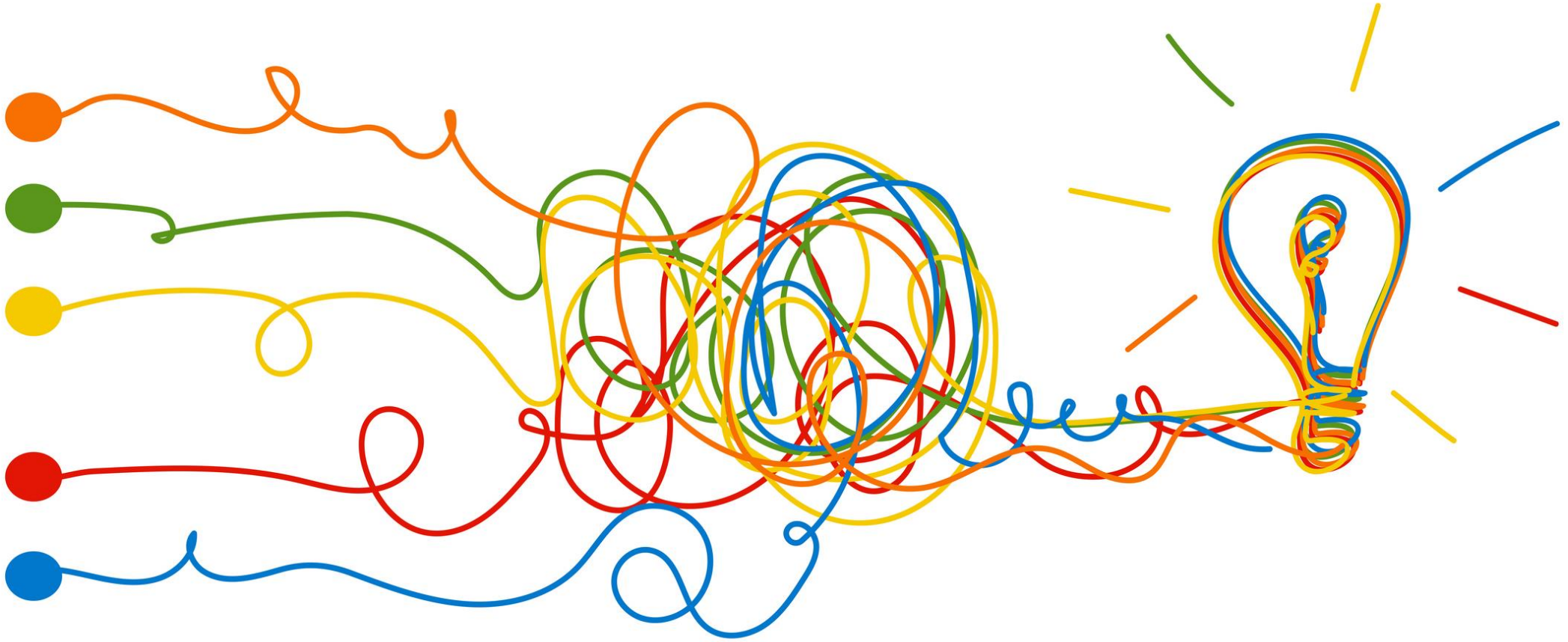
**The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).**



# Speakers

- Dr. Rosslynn Zulla, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work
- Dr. Sabrina Peric, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts
- Dr. Perri Tutelman, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Arts



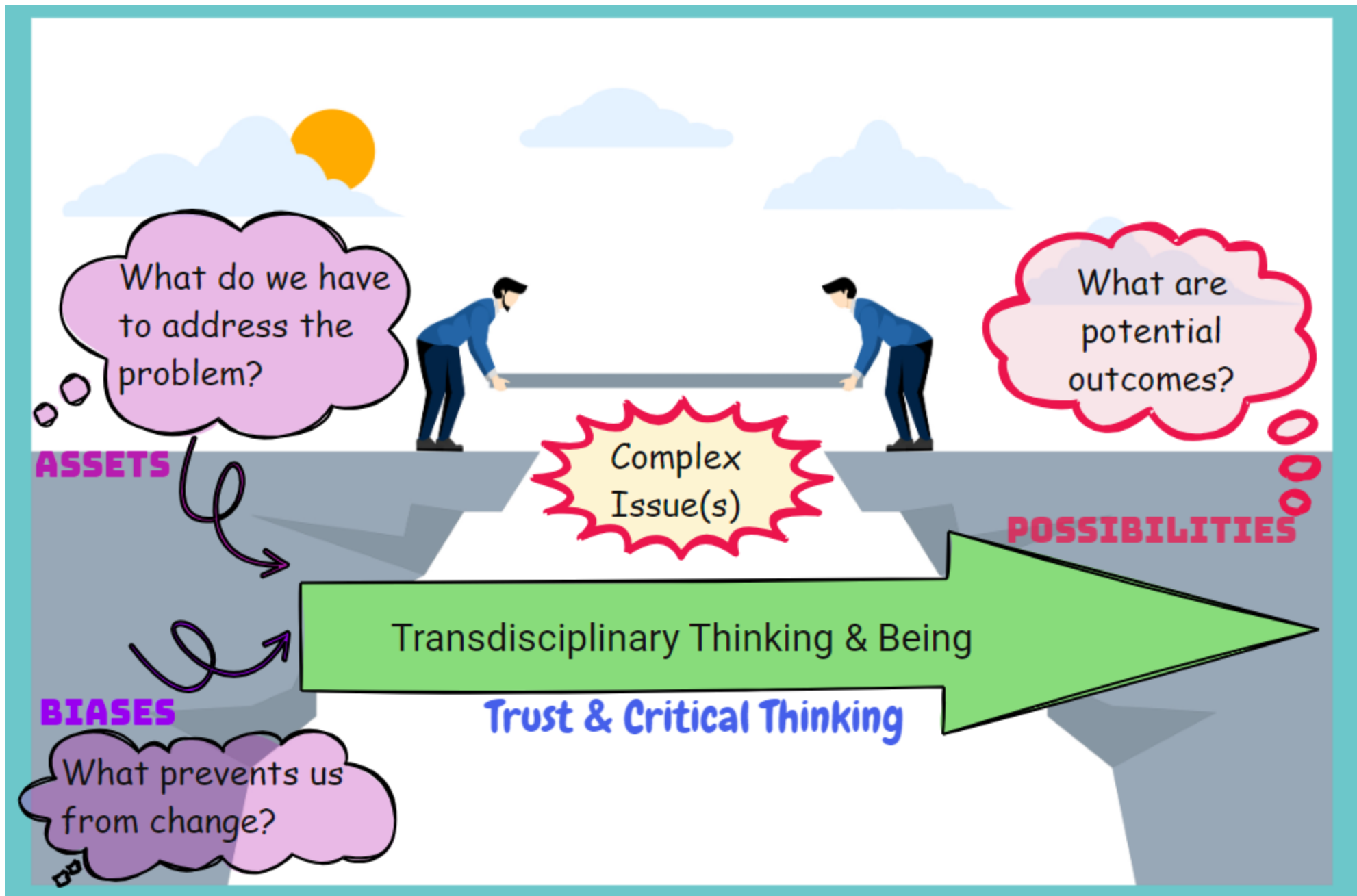


# How to write a Transdisciplinary Grant

Dr. Rosslynn Zulla



**Addressing complex issues in society means being in 'liminal spaces'**



# BUILDING TRANSDISCIPLINARY GRANTS

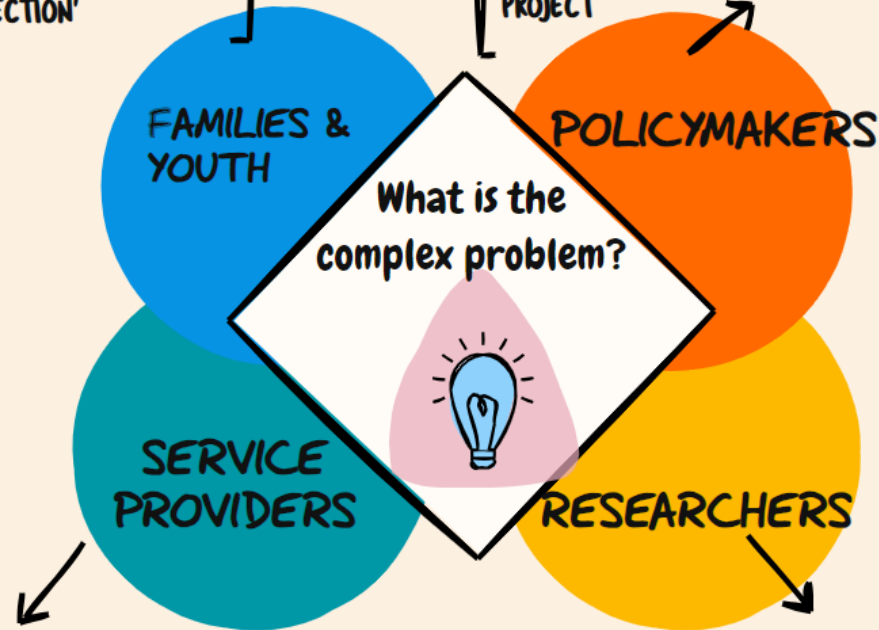
## 1) Who are our stakeholders?

- IDENTIFIES FRAMES TO CONTEXTUALIZE THE PROBLEM(S) & THE SOLUTION(S)

\*DETAILS HELPS TO DEVELOP THE 'TEAM SECTION'

## 2) What are our assets?

- LIVED/WORK EXPERIENCE FRAMES LITERATURE REVIEW, GAPS & RESEARCH QUESTIONS
- WORLDVIEWS (ACADEMIA/LIVED EXPERIENCE) FRAMES THEORETICAL & METHODOLOGICAL LENS
- RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO THE INDIVIDUAL & ORGANIZATION CREATE PLATFORM TO IMPLEMENT PROJECT



## 3) What are our challenges?

- LIVED/WORK EXPERIENCE ILLUMINATES EXISTING GAPS IN RESEARCH, PRACTICE & POLICY
- EXISTING BIASES HELP BE ATTENTIVE TO EXISTING BARRIERS IN FRAMING THE ISSUES, SOLUTIONS & TEAM DYNAMICS

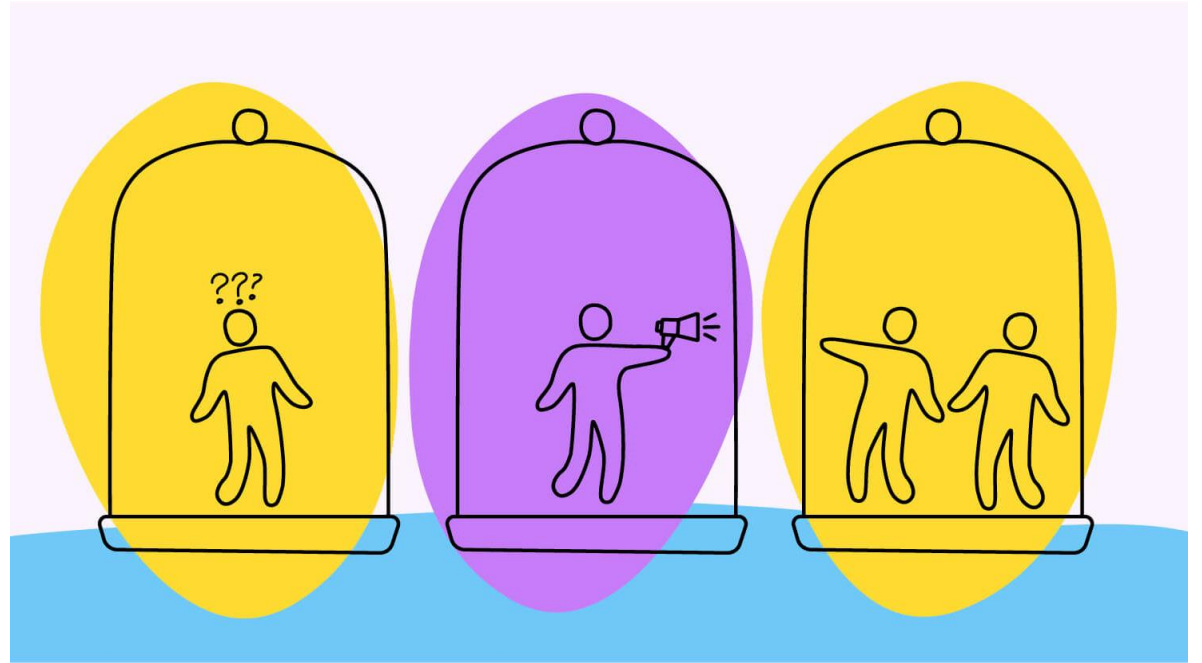
## 4) What are our possibilities?

- ENVISIONING OUTCOMES CREATE CONTENT FOR INNOVATIONS IN THEORY, METHOD, PRACTICE & POLICY
- LIVED/WORK EXPERIENCE OF TEAM CONTEXTUALIZES FEASIBILITY & SALIENCY OF POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS & WAYS TO SHARE EMERGENT LEARNINGS

# Breaking down silos

Considerations for project design and grant writing

Dr. Sabrina Perić





# Doing the hard work before the grant application

Relationship-building

Visioning exercises

- How do different partners want to participate? What are our limitations?

Practicing the shared burden of conceptualizing and writing

- What will your working process be?

How do each of the project participants understand success?

- Values exercises

# Integrating knowledges, disciplinary approaches

- Are my research questions *integrative*?
  - are the research questions relevant to all researchers, participants?
  - Are they separated out? (one question of the NS, one for SSH, one for community partners etc)
- Does the work of different researchers *actually inform* the research others are doing **during the course of the project**?
  - Does the work a community researcher is doing inform the work of an engineer etc?
  - Are the methods integrated?
  - Do different researchers participate in the evaluations of each others' work?
- Thinking about project researchers as *co-mentors*
  - Include co-mentorship activities (teach-ins, workshops, knowledge sharing exercises, for example)
- Transdisciplinarity not as a one-and-done but as a process *throughout the project*

# HQP and Transdisciplinarity

*Who are the HQP? Who are the trainees in your project ?*

- Expanding the notion of an HQP
- Situating your project in place

Preparing trainees for a future of big transdisciplinary challenges

- Is transdisciplinary training built in for students/trainees? Or are they in silos?
- Opportunities for trainee *co-mentorship*
- Events that bring students out of their comfort zones
  - “challenge workshops,” opportunities to present cross-sectorally, attend and learn from many project members, example of muskrat camp

Output that matters

- Opportunities for different kinds of output (academic pubs, but also popular writing, policy reports, working with partners for partner-specific output)
- Cross-sectoral, community collaboration opportunities

# Tips for Transdisciplinary Grant Writing



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Perri Tutelman, Ph.D., R.Psych

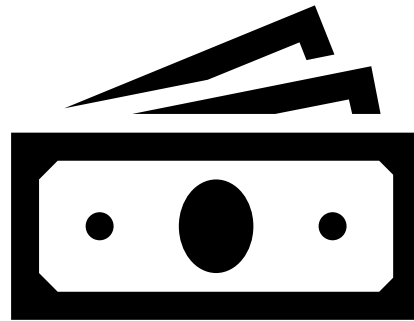


# A Transdisciplinary Approach to End-of-Life Care for Adolescents and Young Adults Diagnosed with Cancer





**Pick Your Players**



**Consider the Currency**



**Show, Don't Tell**

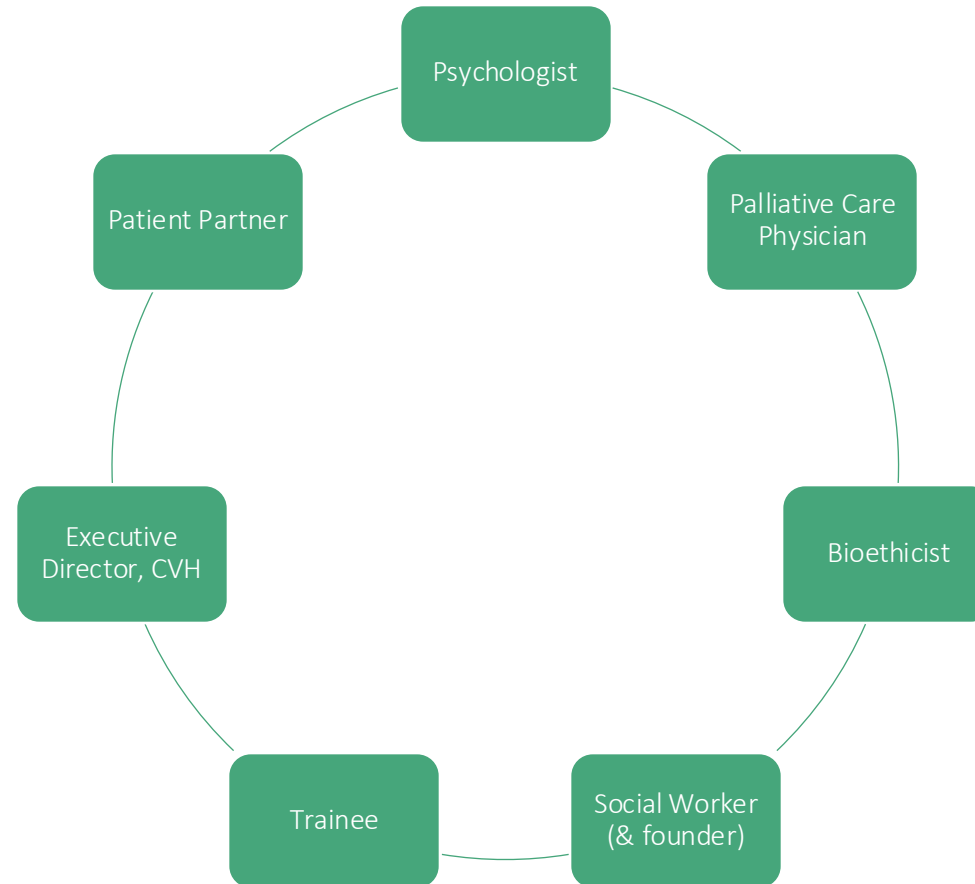
# Pick Your Players

What expertise do you need for the proposal to be feasible and successful across its lifecycle?



# Pick Your Players

Think outside the box!





# Consider the Currency



# Show, Don't Tell

"This study will employ a transdisciplinary approach"

"This project will incorporate the principles of transdisciplinary scholarship"

"This is a transdisciplinary proposal"

# Show, Don't Tell

~~"This study will employ a transdisciplinary approach"~~

~~"This project will incorporate the principles of transdisciplinary scholarship"~~

~~"This is a transdisciplinary proposal"~~

# Show, Don't Tell

The transdisciplinary approach to the proposed activity is demonstrated in several ways:

- (i) our team brings together individuals from transdisciplinary backgrounds, including both academic and non-academic partners and those with lived experience



# Show, Don't Tell

The transdisciplinary approach to the proposed activity is demonstrated in several ways:

- (ii) we are using a mixed methods approach to obtain a rich, comprehensive understanding of a complex issue

# Show, Don't Tell

The transdisciplinary approach to the proposed activity is demonstrated in several ways:

(iii) we are taking a multi-informant approach by collecting data from the various actors who hold interest in this issue

# Show, Don't Tell

The transdisciplinary approach to the proposed activity is demonstrated in several ways:

(iv) we have a robust dissemination plan that targets groups across disciplines and sectors including scientific publications and a social media campaign using multimedia tools in partnership with Canadian Virtual Hospice.



# Thank you





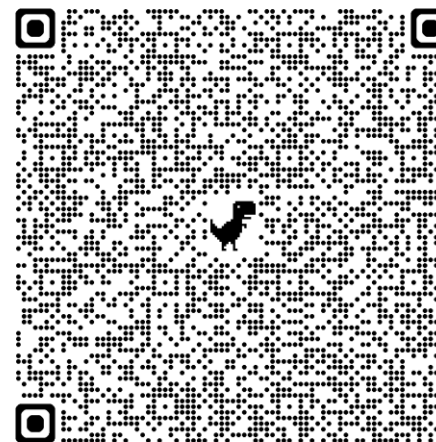
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