



Community Nurses Influencing Health Policy

CHNIG Conference

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Sue Matthews RN DPH



The 5 Domains of Nursing



- **Practice**
- **Administration**
- **Education**
- **Research**
- **Policy**



Policy Includes



- **budgetary changes,**
- **legislative changes,**
- **regulatory changes, and**
- **legal actions.**



Policy Knowledge Encompasses



- **Nursing theories,**
- **Sociology,**
- **Ethics,**
- **Human Resources**
- **Political science, and**
- **Economics**

**As they relate to nursing and health
policy**



Significance of Policy



- **Nurses in policy identify, critically analyze and evaluate laws, regulations, and policies at the institutional, local, provincial, and national levels that impact their patients, clients and residents, and the practice of nursing, and develop knowledge of the history, structure, and process of health policy making**

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- **Political cycle is 4 years**
 - **Municipal, Provincial and Federal elections**
 - **Ontario government transformation to stewardship**
 - **Local Health Integration Networks**
 - **New Ministry Structure**
 - **Nursing data and information is limited but improving**
 - **How many nurses will we need in 10 years?**
 - **What will nurses do in 10 years?**



Community Nurses Must Communicate and Demonstrate Nurses' Contributions



From the Traditional

- Describing tasks
- Nurses at the “bedside” 24/7
- Angels of Mercy
- Following orders
- Handmaiden

To New Way

- Teaching, Navigating, Advocating
- Knowledge Workers
- Political Involvement
- Evidence Based Practice
- Educational Preparation
- Scope of Practice

Good Evidence

- **Does not necessarily equate to good policy**



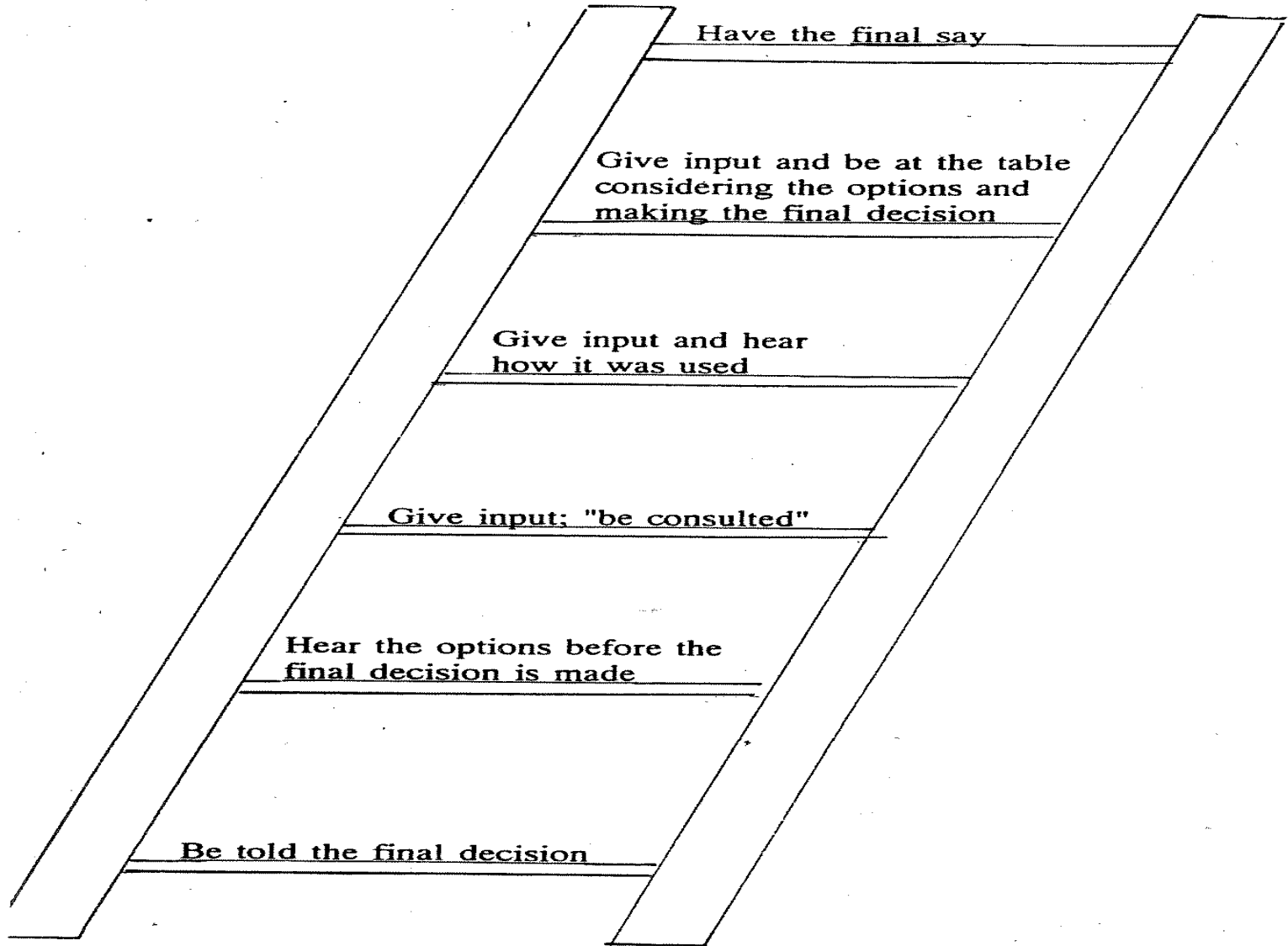
Having Input

- **Does not necessarily equate to getting it your way!**



DAL

THE PARTICIPATION LADDER





Don't Take No



- **From the person who can't tell you yes!**

But...

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- **Don't go too far, or you will annoy people**
 - **Militancy is not the best approach**
 - **If you challenge in an offensive way, you will not succeed**
 - **Evidence is your best friend**



CANADA

Values & Beliefs



**Regulation,
Experience
& Revision**

**Problem
or Need
Emerges**

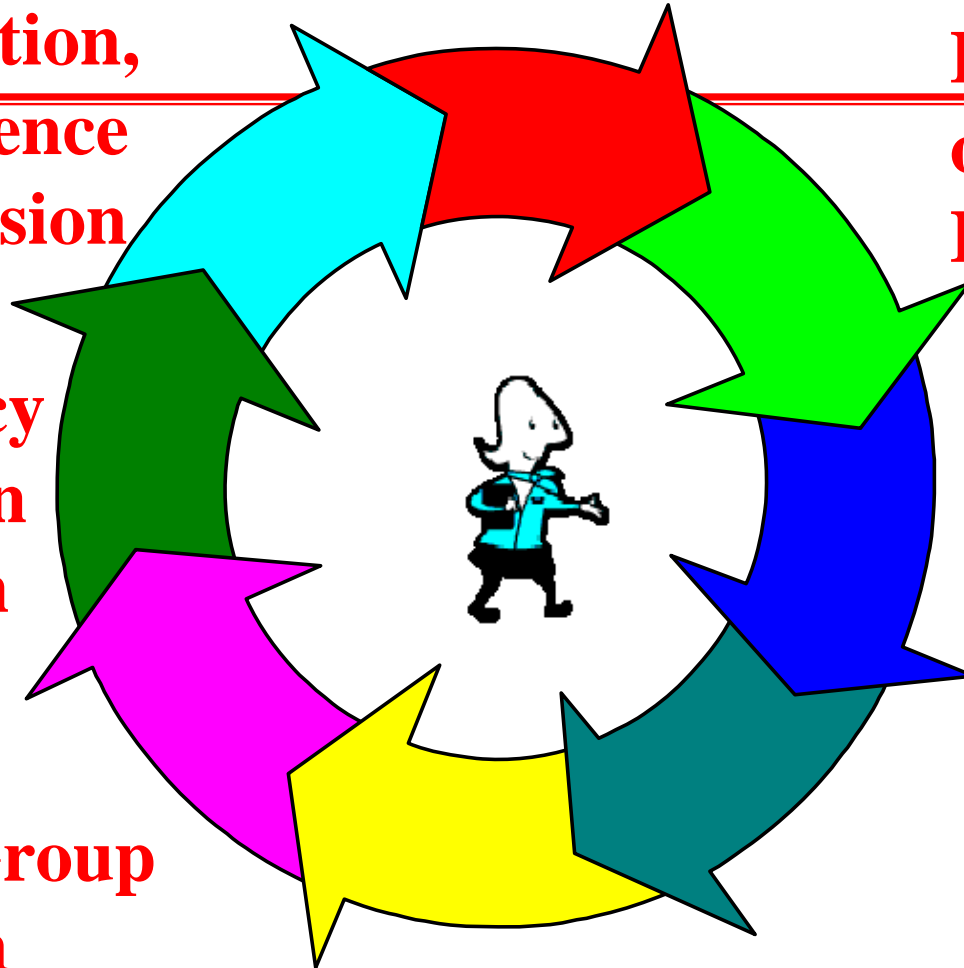
**Public Policy
Deliberation
& Adoption**

**Knowledge
Development
& Research**

**Interest Group
Activation**

**Public
Awareness**

Political Engagement



Steps in the Policy Process

- **Agenda Setting**
- **Policy Options Formulation**
- **Decision-Making**
- **Program Design and Implementation**
- **Evaluation**
 - **Sound familiar? (Nursing Process)**

- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **What is legislation versus regulation?**
- **What should be regulated/legislated?
(Be careful what you wish for!)**

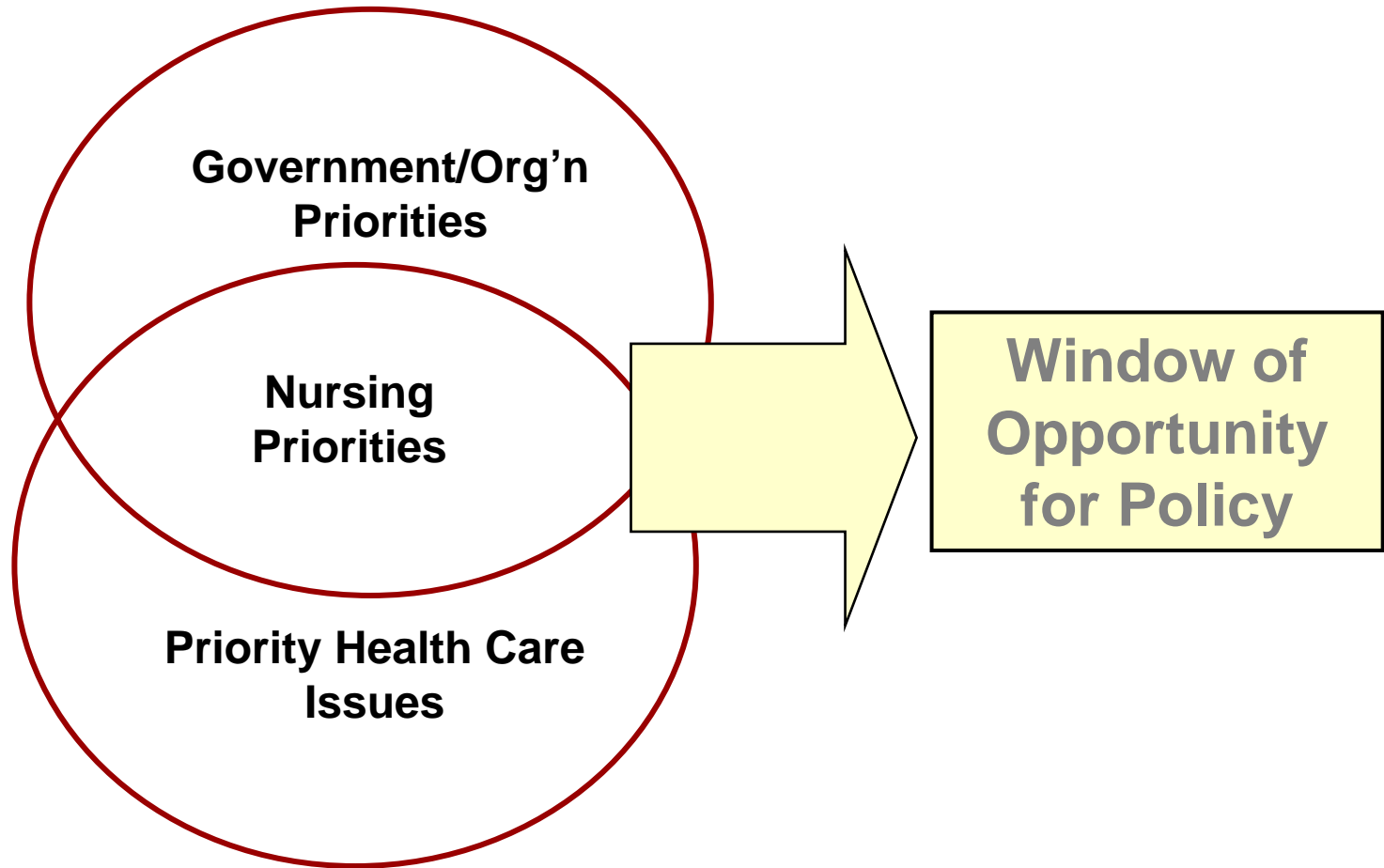


Stakeholder Management



- **Partnerships**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Vision (find common ground of vision for nursing profession)**

Linking Nursing Priorities with Government's Vision





Leadership in the 5th Domain



- **Admit what you don't know**
- **Actively seek knowledge**
- **Be authentic**
- **Be self-confident**
- **Be able to live with uncertainty**
- **Be strategic**
- **Be diplomatic**
- **Build alliances**

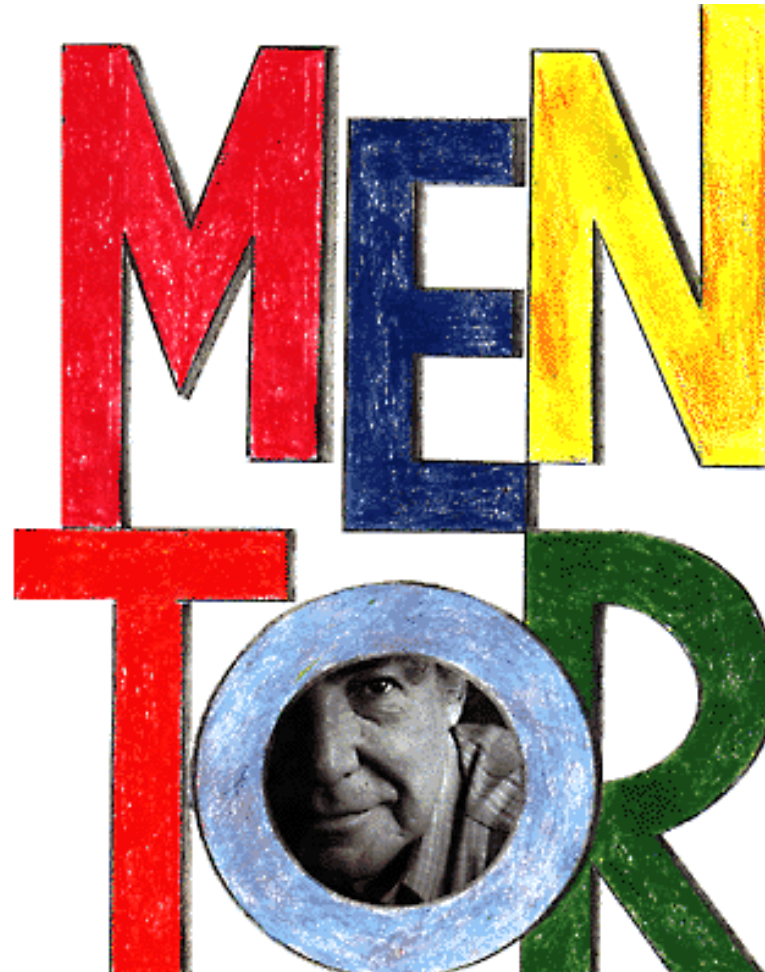
Choose Your Battles!



- **Be familiar with the policy cycle**
- **Understand legislation and regulation for nursing**
- **Be patient - there is always tomorrow**
- **Develop partnerships with key stakeholders**
- **Be aware of current nursing research**
 - **Use data and stories to back you up**



Presenting to Government the Need for Mentorship Fund in Community Nursing



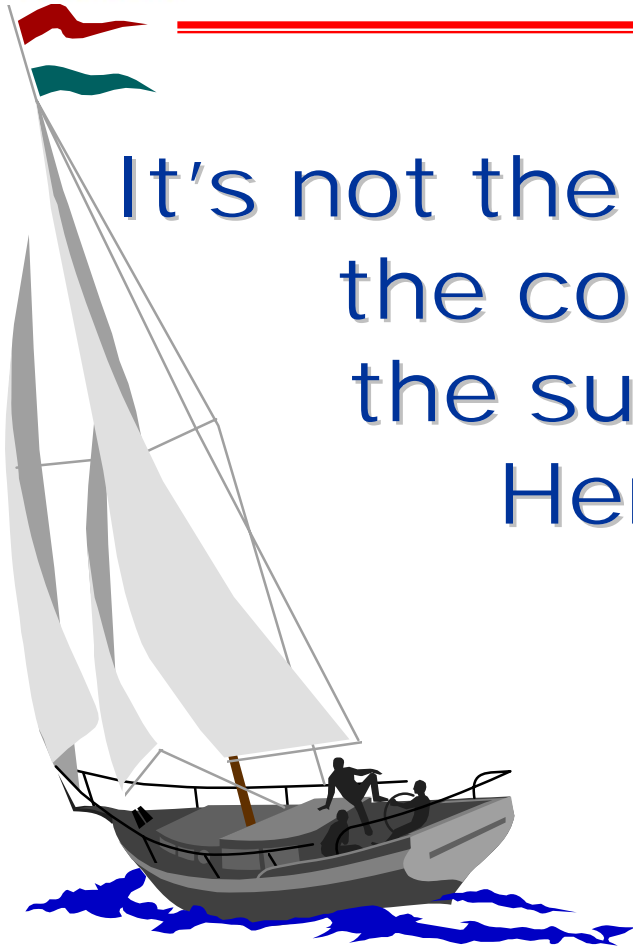


Politics is not Dirty Word!



- **140,000 Nurses in Ontario**
- **1 in 70 voters is a nurse!**
- **How is your voice heard?**

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- **Be Aware**
 - Knowledge of current issues and the policy process (know the big picture)
 - **Be Involved - Spheres of political influence**
 - Workplace
 - Professional Associations (RPNAO)
 - Community
 - Government (political and bureaucratic levels)
 - Opposition
 - **Communicate effectively using facts and evidence**
 - **Avoid tribalism**



It's not the going out of the port, but
the coming in, that defines
the success of a journey...
Henry Ward Beecher