Experimentation Works

February 2018

Experimentation Works (EW)

a scalable initiative to build public servants' capacity in experimentation skills and practice through a unique learning-by-doing model that supports and showcases 3-5 small-scale experiments in the open.

EW FEATURES

PRACTICAL COHORT MODEL

+

SHOWCASE EXPERIMENTATION METHODOLOGIES

+

OPEN-BY-DEFAULT ACCESS

SCALABLE MODEL

+

BUILDS NETWORKS AND MOMENTUM

+

RESPONDS PRACTICALLY TO EXPERIMENTATION MANDATE COMMITMENT

3

HOW

1. **Apply:** TBS will work with departments interested in submitting experiments.

2. **Select:** 3-5 small-scale experiments to be selected by a group of experts and senior executives.

3. **Onboard:** create EW cohort + initial learning modules.

4. **Experiment:** define, design, run, evaluate. Led by departments. Supported by TBS and expert partners.

5. **Publish:** feature results through blog posts, reports, potentially videos.

6. **Outcome:** Impact & Failure report per experiment, at 6 months after mark.

Copyright training to entrepreneurs (PCH)

Are learning products that promote copyright literacy for Canadian creators more effective when integrated within broader training promoting entrepreneurial literacy?

Official languages compliance (OCOL)

Is using machine-learning algorithms to assess OL federal compliance more cost-effective than using human auditors?

Activity-based workplace (PSPC+TBS)

Is moving to an activity-based workplace (compared to not moving) associated with changes in employee outcomes?

POLICY & PROGRAM

SERVICE DELIVERY

INTERNAL SERVICES

5

WHO

Departments
Experimentation teams and subject-matter experts in each partner department leading on, implementing and supporting individual EW experiments.

Expert Partners
Practioners with expertise in experimental design, evaluation and complementary skill sets (e.g. citizen science experts; science communication and knowledge translators) providing direct support to EW experimentation teams.

Enablers
Led by TBS: creating and curating resources, supporting the entire process and individual departmental needs, and reflecting on the initiative as a whole to demystify the experimentation process.

ADM Committee on Experimentation
Supporting EW, seeing EW in action and helping to unlock barriers and make strategic linkages.
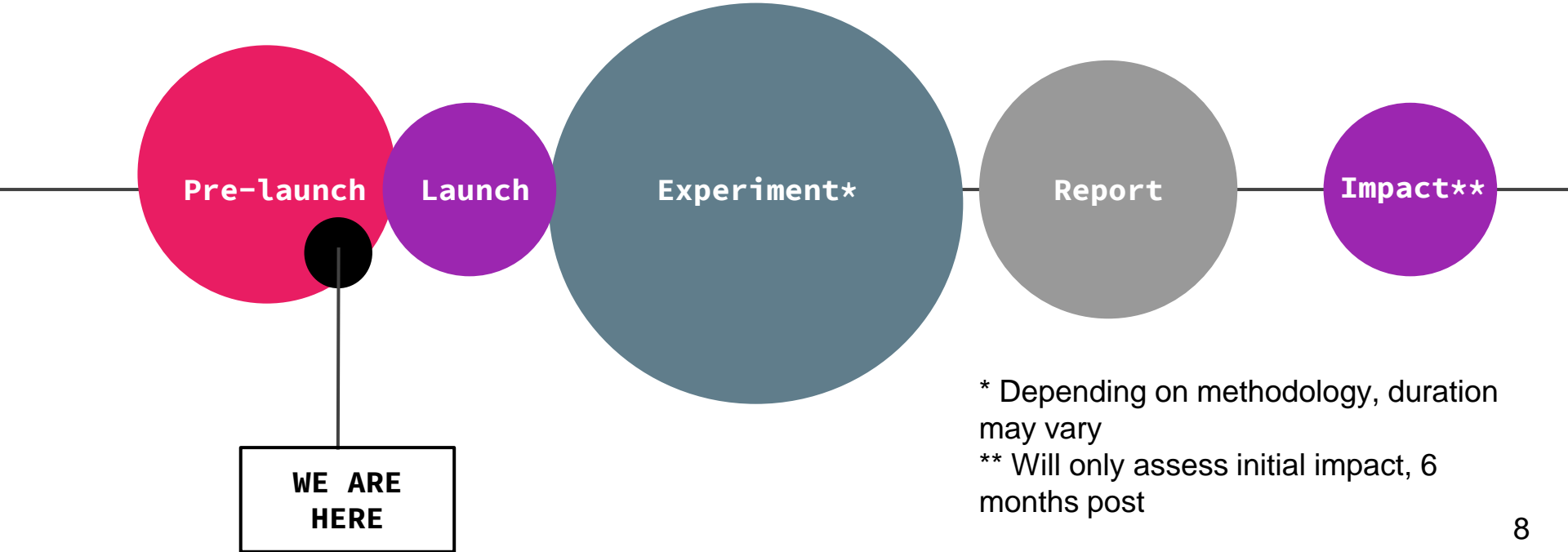
WHY

Provides 'on-ramp' for departments looking to get started. Its enabling supports include:

- **Custom-designed training** modules and other supportive resources to help guide the completion of each stage;
- **Access to experts** in experimental design, implementation and analysis;
- **Senior-level attention and support** to help address barriers and needs;
- **Access to an emerging network** of experimentation practitioners.

Aligns with core goals of ADM Committee mandate, which include:

- **Enabling a mechanism** focussed on implementation, and acting as a sounding board;
- **Instilling a culture of openness** and transparency around experimentation.

Project timeline - mid 2017 to early 2019

Pre-launch

Launch

Experiment*

Report

Impact**

WE ARE HERE

* Depending on methodology, duration may vary
** Will only assess initial impact, 6 months post

EW IS:

Intentionally scoped, in line with capacity

Designed as one entry-point into the experimentation field for GoC professionals

A practical response to demand for GoC experimentation examples and experts

Envisioned as a sampling of what is possible using experimentation

EW IS NOT:

Intended to raise expectations (i.e. expectations that your experiment will be run for you)

Designed to turn all cohort participants into experts by programme end

Created to take on large-scale challenges

Replacing requirement for departments & agencies to themselves take ownership of commitment

CONTACT

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