

Leveraging People Power for Water & Beyond: Braiding Grassroots & Indigenous Advocacy Work

Arlene Slocombe

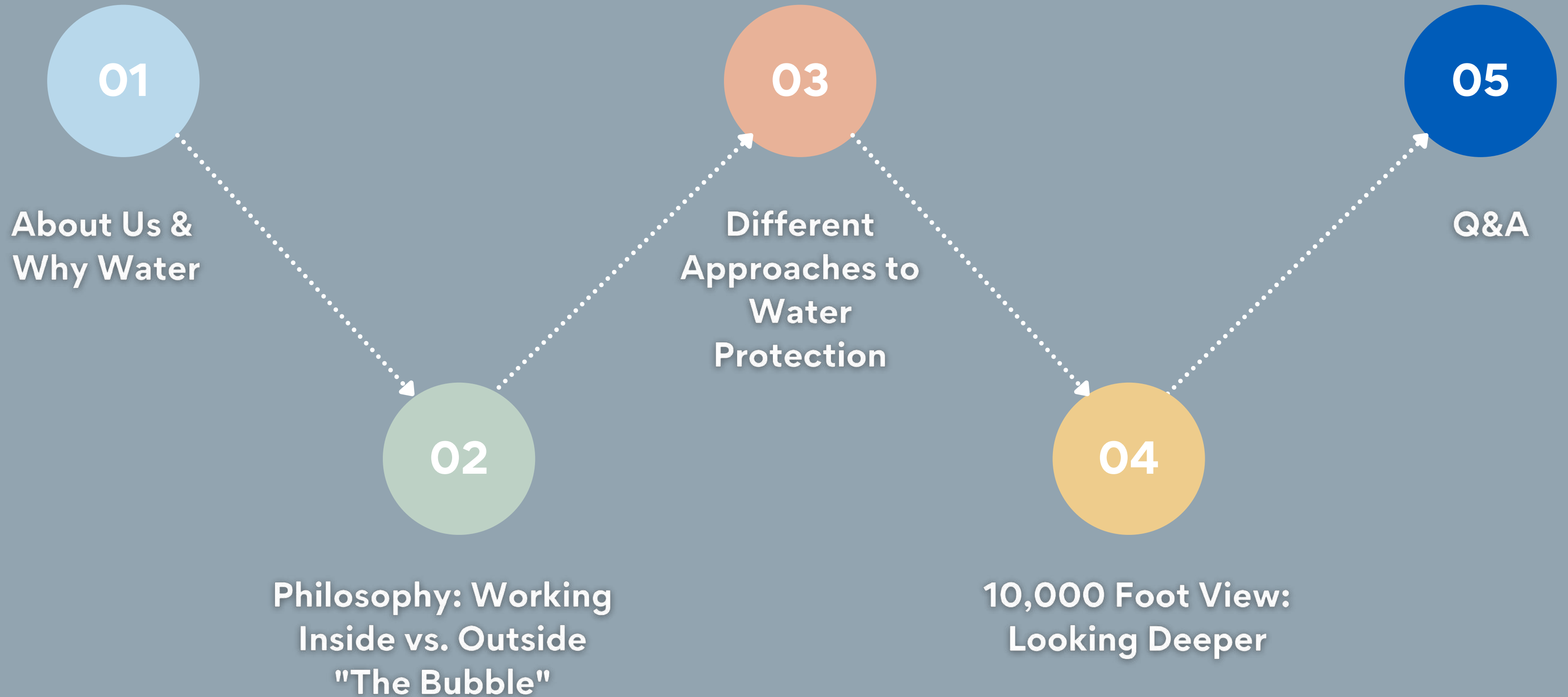
Executive Director, Water Watchers



Water Watchers



Presentation Overview



Our **VISION**
IS A SOCIETY
WHERE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THAT
WATER IS INHERENT to ALL LIFE,

LIVE IN BALANCE
WITH NATURE

and **BUILD JUST**
RELATIONSHIPS with
EACH OTHER

WATER WATCHERS EMPOWERS
PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES to **WORK IN SOLIDARITY**

THROUGH the
UNIFYING
LENS
OF WATER

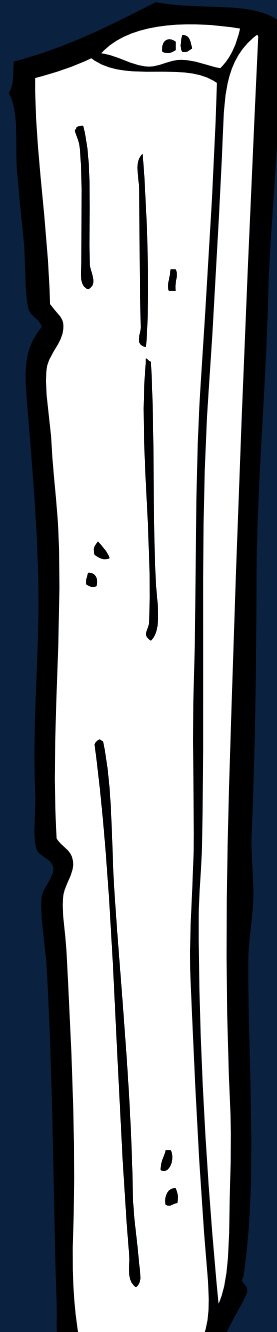
TOWARDS
SOCIAL
JUSTICE



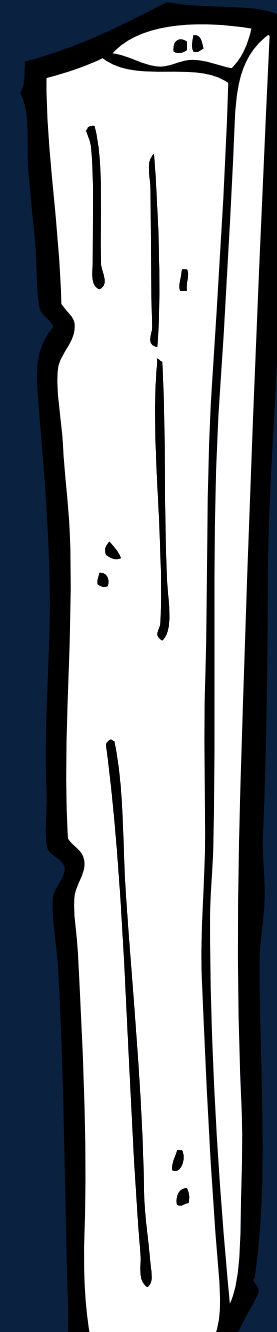
Water Watchers
Water for Life, Not Profit



**Center
Indigenous
sovereignty**



**Deepen personal
relationship with
Water**



Guide Posts

Why Water?

Water is Life

**Freshwater is
Scarce**

**Water is Universal
& Intersectional**

**Water is
Under Threat**





IN-DEPTH

**The last 33 caribou:
fighting for the
survival of a
Wet'suwet'en herd**

**COLONIALISM IS
STILL KILLING
INDIGENOUS
YOUTH**



UNPACK THAT WITH OCP

CTV NEWS

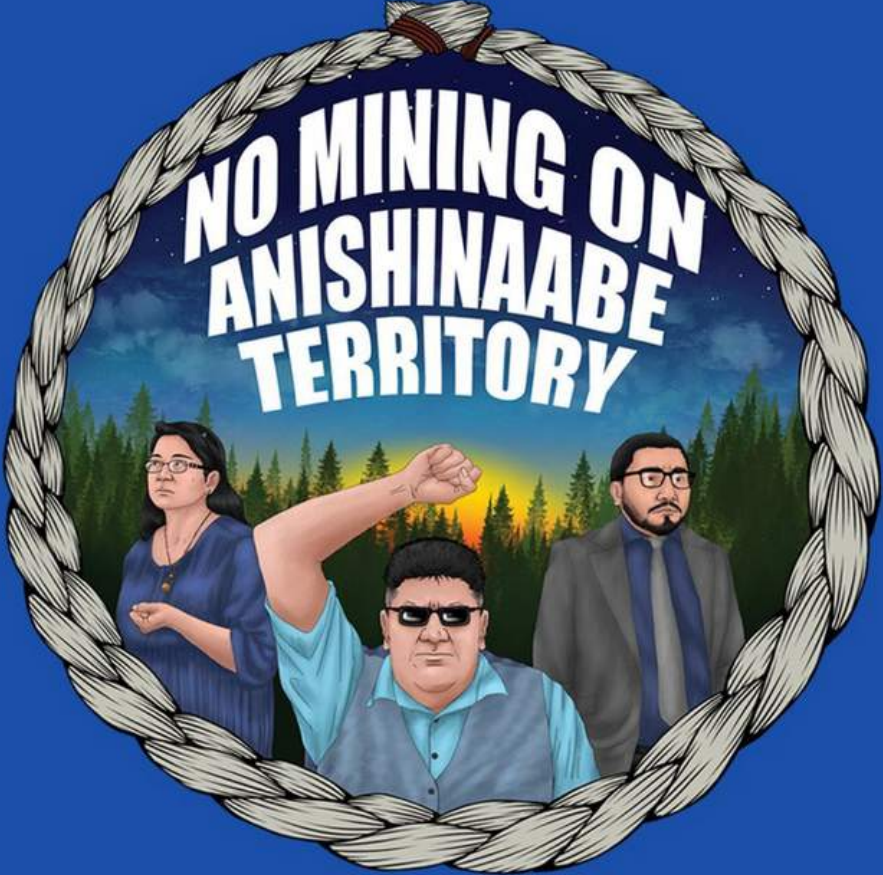
'We're in an emergency': Mercury exposure linked to high youth suicide attempt rate in Grassy Narrows First Nation

our Social Good Crew via our LinkInBio
at OnCanadaProject.ca/Together

ON CANADA PROJECT

MARCH FOR THE LAND

**NO MINING ON
ANISHINAABE
TERRITORY**




**How Does This
Happen?**

Working 'inside the bubble'

**the truth
will set
you free**

....RIGHT?

Present the facts

Use formal mechanisms for
engagement & consultation

Core belief 'we will win because the
truth is on our side'

Justice

It's Not Working 'inside the bubble'

**the truth
will set
you free**

....BUT NO GUARANTEE.

Present the facts

Use formal mechanisms for
engagement & consultation

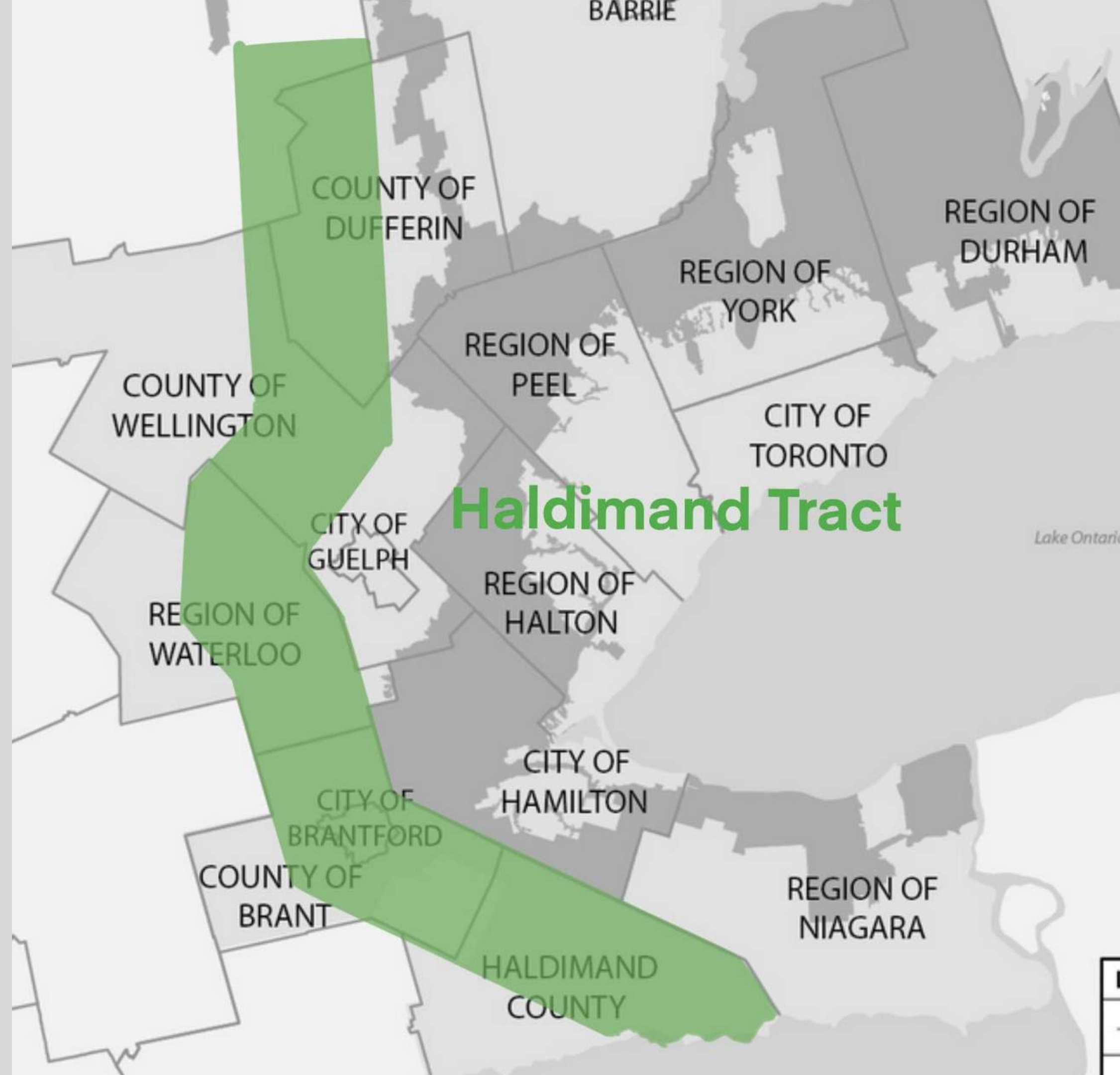
Core belief 'we will win because the
truth is on our side'

≠ justice

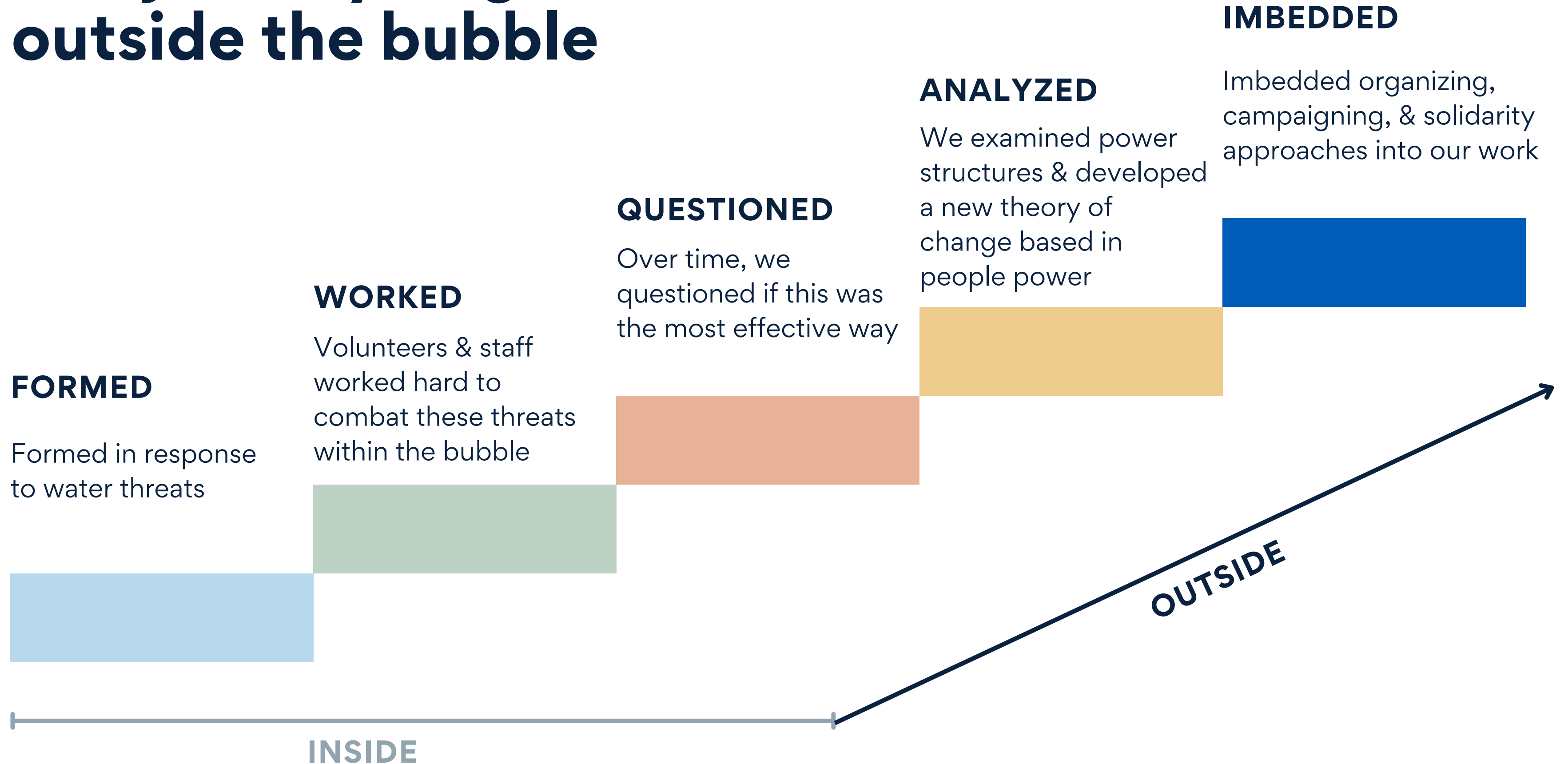
Power • Politics • People

Provincial law enables land theft and exploitation

Provincial policy and legislation, such as the Planning Act, the Places to Grow Act and the Provincial Policy Statement are the specific legal mechanisms the province maintains that allow municipalities to develop lands and approve projects.



Our journey to get outside the bubble



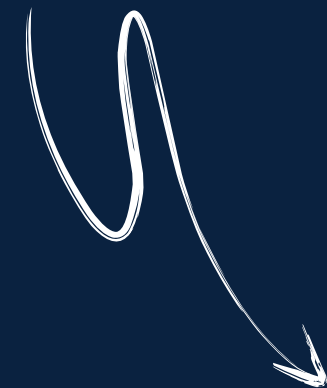
Example Roadmap: Protecting water through grassroots campaigning



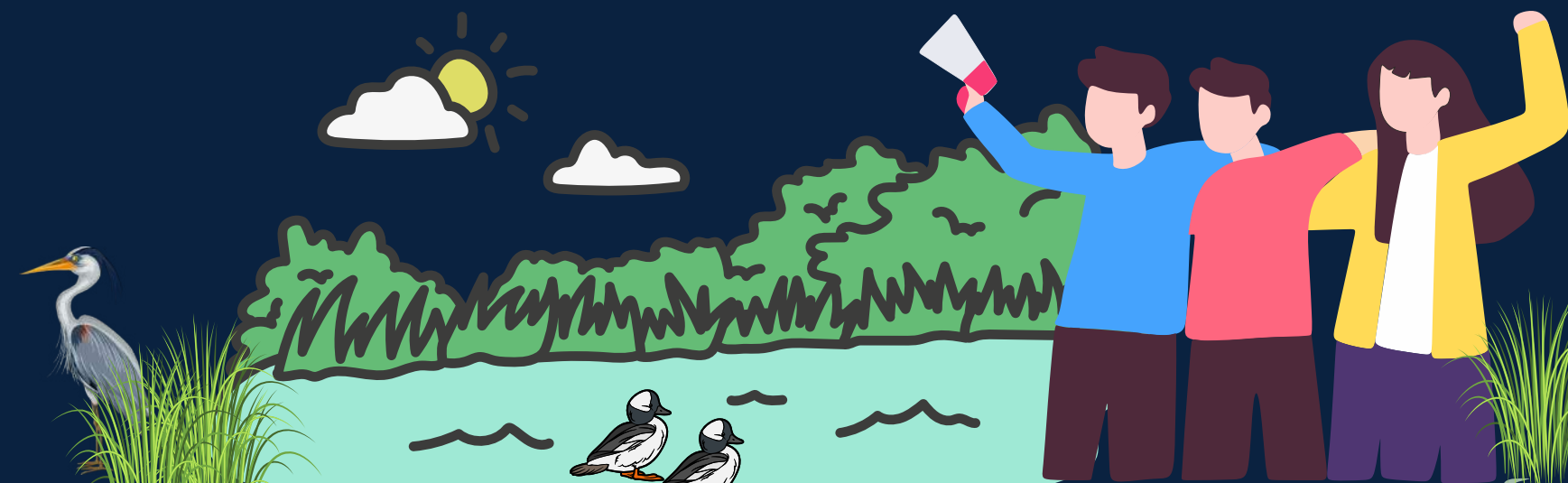
CRISIS



ORGANIZE



WIN!



Benefits of building grassroots advocacy power through water

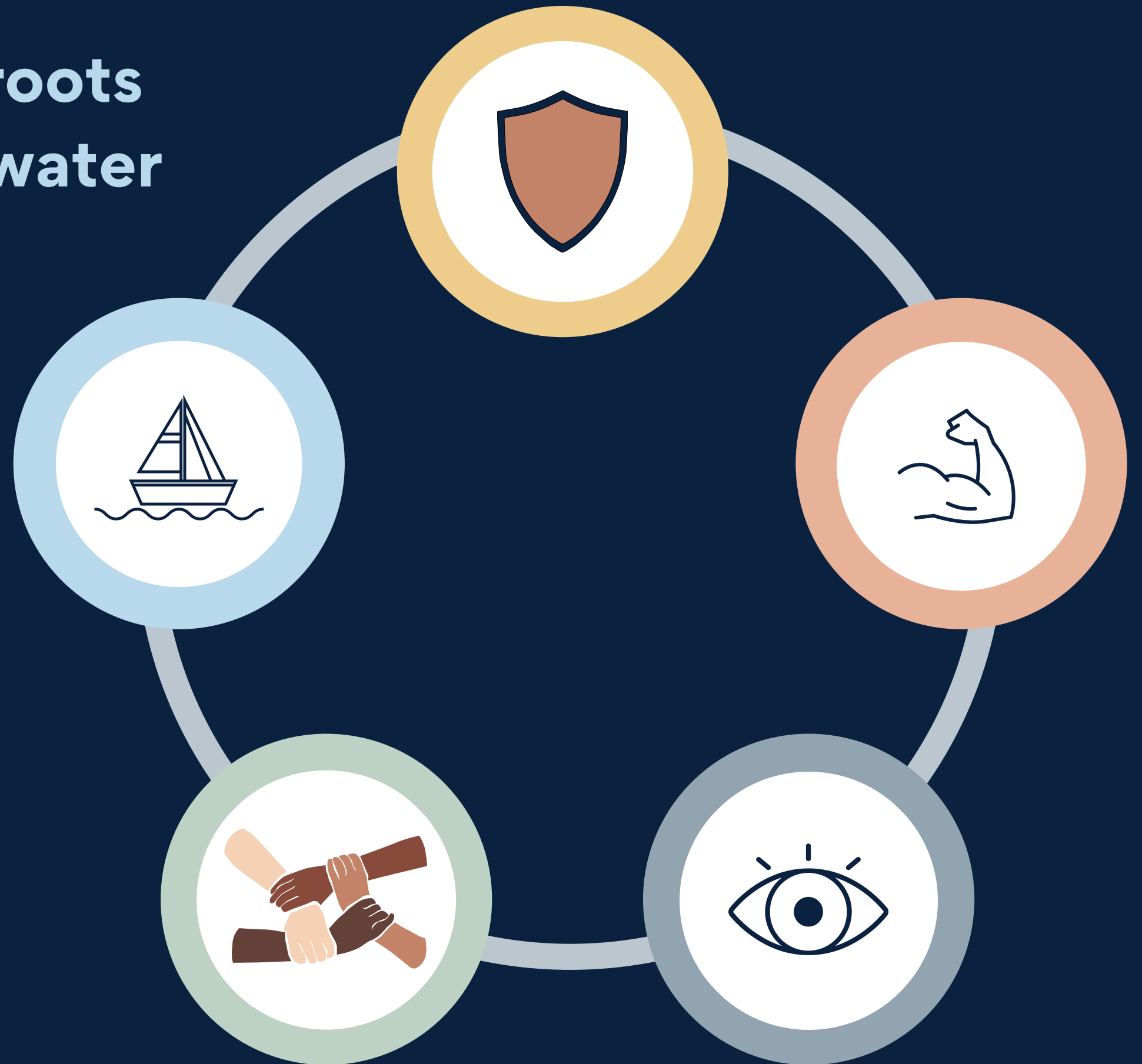
01 First line of defence

02 Localized capacity

03 Recognition of power

04 Networks of support

05 Intersectional spillover



Towards Braiding: Working in Solidarity



10,000 Foot View

Johanna
Macy, 'The
Work that
Reconnects'

three
simultaneous
stories

business
as usual or colonialism

global supply chains
corporate rights
fracking
proprietary data & coded bias
surveillance

where
we are
now ↓

↳ the great
unraveling of systems that
are supposed to support life

COVID
climate collapse
economic depression
failing democracy
meaning crisis

↳ the great
turning repair to really
support life

defunding & divestments
universal basic income
MeToo
BLM
reparations

source: Joanna Macy

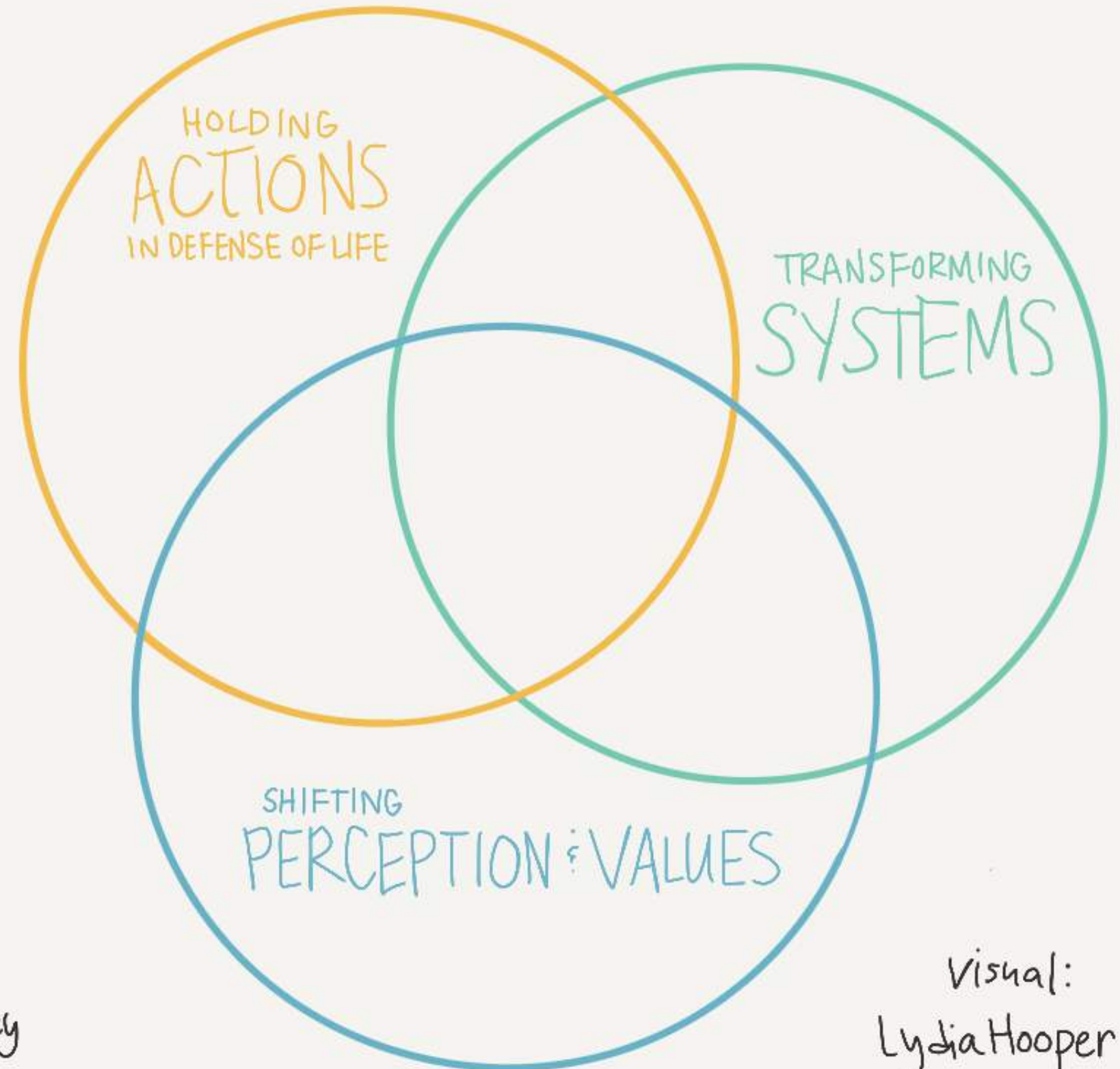
visual: Lydia Hooper

10,000 Foot View

Transformational change happens when we work toward three mutually supportive strategies...

ADAPTED FROM JOANNA MACY

the Great Turning



source:
Joanna Macy

visual:
Lydia Hooper

Final Thoughts



**Water protection is nonpartisan,
but it's not apolitical.**



Building grassroots power in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and social justice movements is the way to ensure all the waters around us have a better chance for a sustainable, just future with water for all life.



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**Stay
Connected** 

Niá:wen | Thank you

