

# Building foundations for authentic and sustainable community partnerships

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## Project Question

What are the elements that define a meaningful partnership between energy businesses and the communities they are engaging?



## Why engage?

North America is occupied by numerous Indigenous groups, a mosaic of unique colours and cultures. How can community partnerships add “colour” to a development project? What opportunities are missed by not partnering with these communities?



## Project Overview

- Project conducted in partnership with Touchwood Agency Tribal Council (TATC) and Rainforest Energy Corp. (RFEC).
- Two organisations have a 50/50 joint venture to implement a waste-to-energy facility on TATC’s traditional territories



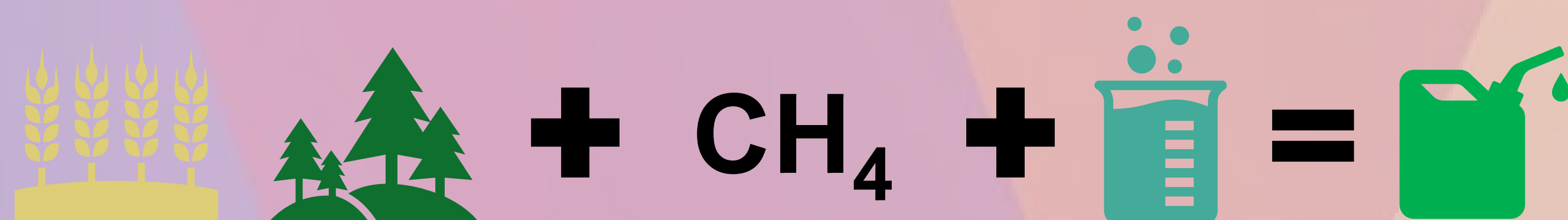
### Touchwood Agency Tribal Council (TATC)

- Four First Nations groups from Treaty 4, southern Saskatchewan
- Predominantly Nêhiyawak (Cree) and Anihšīnāpēk (Saulteaux)



### Rainforest Energy Corp. (RFEC)

- Start-up company in Alberta championing biofuel technology
- Transform waste biomass into community-based business solutions



## Interview Process

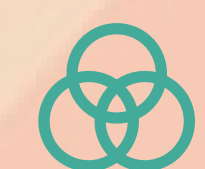
- The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (CFREB) have approved this study (Research Ethics Board Study ID: REB23-0205)



- Sample size = Nine participants



- Interviews with TATC and RFEC board members and engagement professionals



- Content Analysis (NVivo Software)

## Results and Discussion

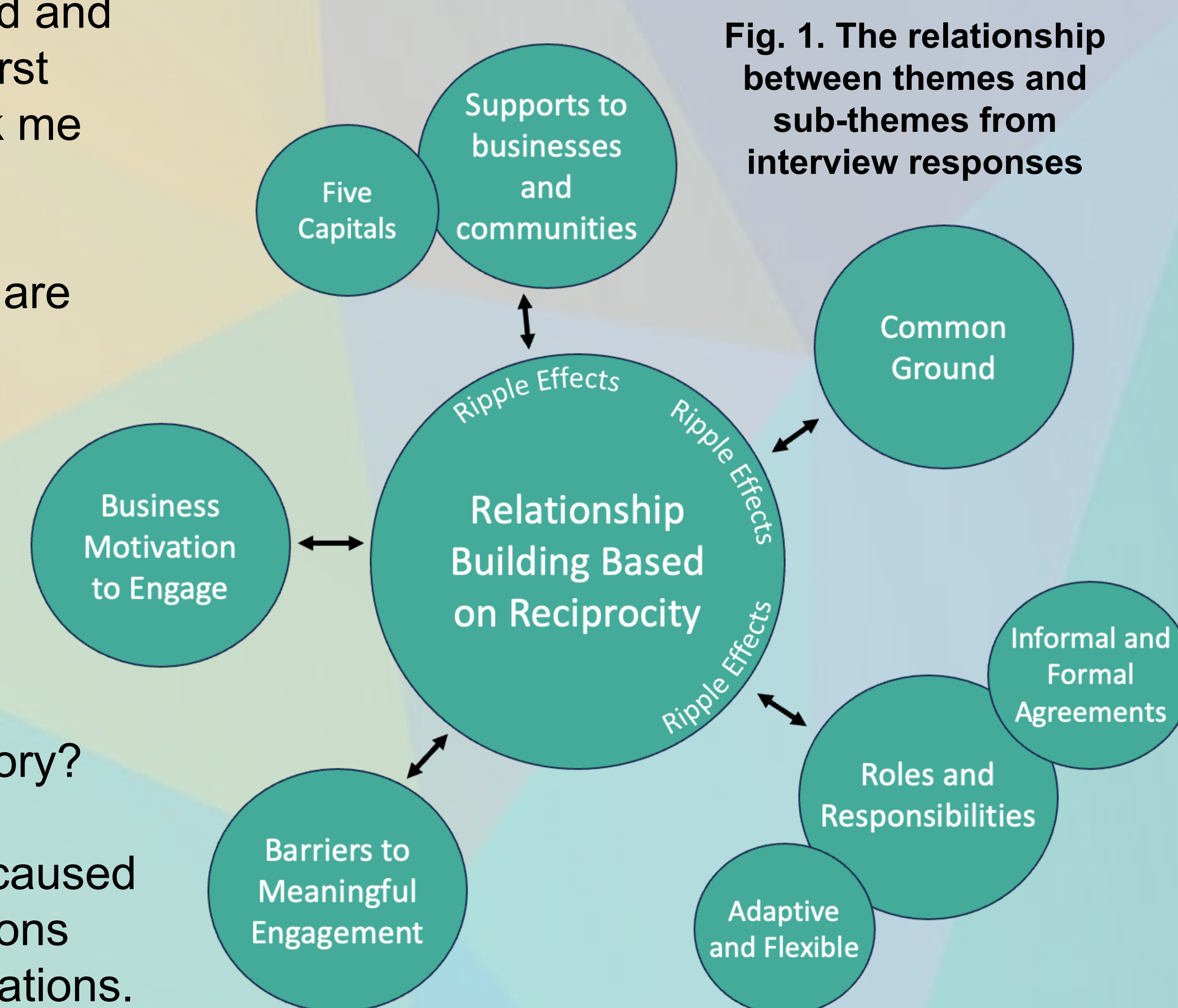
- Central Theme: Relationship building based in reciprocity and mutual respect (rather than based on legal obligation) to create the most impactful partnership for all parties
- Also characteristic of successful business alliances

- Intuitively, defining common ground and roles and responsibilities are the first steps to establishing relations. Ask me how?

- Supports to effective relationships are found internal and external to a partnership. Ask me about the five capitals!

- Positive ripple effects, known and unknown, occur when the above elements make up a partnership. Interested in hearing a success story?

- Business motivation and barriers caused by government policy and regulations continue to impede meaningful relations.



## Conclusion

- Findings are common sense, but are rarely done in practice
- Businesses can implement findings to access the colourful mosaic of community knowledge, experiences, and resources supporting energy development
- Why are practices not implemented?
  - Business motivation and perceptions of opportunity costs
  - Business and government regulations/policy prioritizing reconciliation objectives (Fig. 2.a.) over relationship building (Fig. 2.b.)

Fig. 2. Comparison of relationship building approaches.

