

"LIVING ON THE EDGE"

How do we engage in the delicate dance of celebrating what gives us our 'edge' without losing or dulling what makes it special?

S. ASHLEIGH WEEDEN, MPA

weedens@uoguelph.ca | @ashleighweeden

www.ruraldev.ca/ashleigh-weeden

PhD Candidate (Rural Studies)

School of Environmental Design & Rural Development

Ontario Agricultural College

University of Guelph



**COVID-19 HAS NOT BEEN
AN 'EQUALIZER'...**

**TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT BEEN
UNIVERSALLY LIBERATING...**

'NORMAL' WAS NOT WORKING

And yes, that means we're all on the hook for the hard stuff..



WE'RE **NOT** ALL IN
THE **SAME BOAT**
EVEN IF WE'RE IN
THE **SAME STORM**


You might even call it a *goat* rodeo...



HOW DID WE GET **HERE**?

- + Assumption that unlimited economic growth is good... without consideration of broader + necessary social, economic, environmental, political contexts + constraints
- + Conflict between policy + practice: what we say, what we do, who we serve, how we make decision, who gets to have a say
- + Abdication of the social contract between the individual and our communities + erosion of trust & accountability + unwillingness to engage with things that we don't think directly affect us
- + Appropriation of powerful social movements without meaningful change: pop-culture feminism; collaboration only when it suits us; diversity without inclusion, equity, or justice; staying on the surface





**This moment is a reminder that the
status quo can and must be disrupted.
We are standing on the threshold
between the old world and the next...**

**AND WE MUST CHOOSE TO
BUILD THE FUTURE WE WANT.**

QUOTE FROM [JUSTRECOVERYFORALL.CA](https://justrecoveryforall.ca)



THIS MEANS WE ALL NEED TO LEARN HOW TO EMBRACE OUR **EDGES**...

THIS CAN FEEL:

UNCERTAIN,
UNCOMFORTABLE,
EXCITING,
ENTICING,
CONTRARIAN,
CONNECTED,
JUST PLAIN WEIRD!



- +** Rest + recovery are productive: embrace the pause
- +** If you don't understand + engage with your edges, no one else will - and you'll struggle to make an impact
- +** Like good stories, "in the particular lies the universal"
- +** Embracing our 'edginess' means not everyone will like us. That's okay. Keep a watchful eye on the balance between authenticity vs. exclusion.

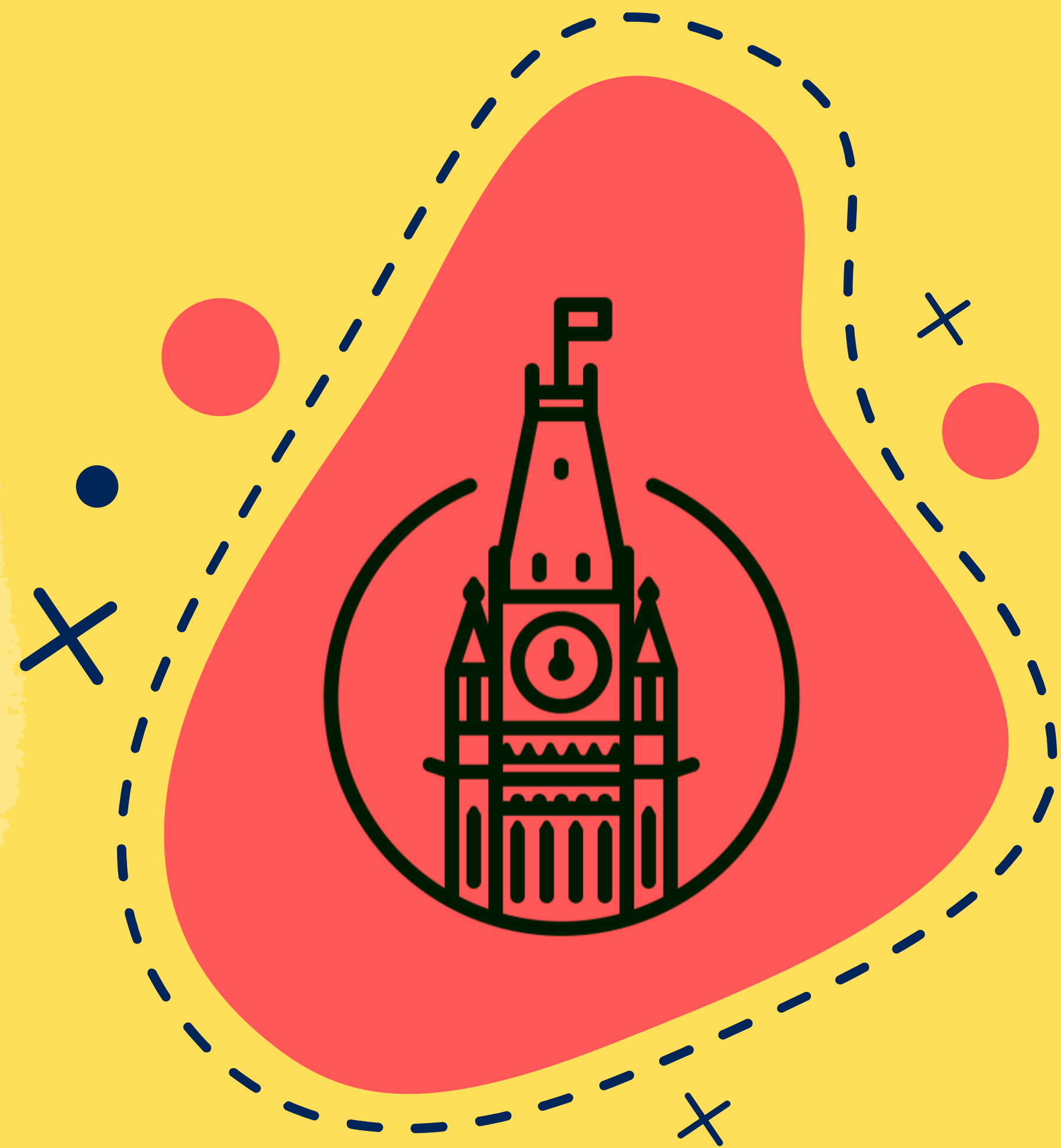
And that's why we must push ourselves to ask the harder question. Not “**what do THEY want?**”, but “**what do WE have to say?**” We must do the work of looking inside ourselves to find what is beautiful and tremendous within us and summon the courage to put this out. As James Joyce said, “**in the particular lies the universal.**” The meaning of all this is that you, your opinions and intelligence and history matter. **But you gotta do the work.** To pull from the most personal areas of your life, your opinions, your stories, your experiences — by doing this you create something meaningful not only to yourself but to those who see it. The work, the fear and struggle, the constant worry of whether your gift is good enough, the small critics both inside and out? F**k 'em.

**THE WORLD AWAITS YOUR GIFT.
ISN'T THAT WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT?**

JAMES VICTORE



**THIS IS NOT
THE CENTRE
OF THE UNIVERSE**





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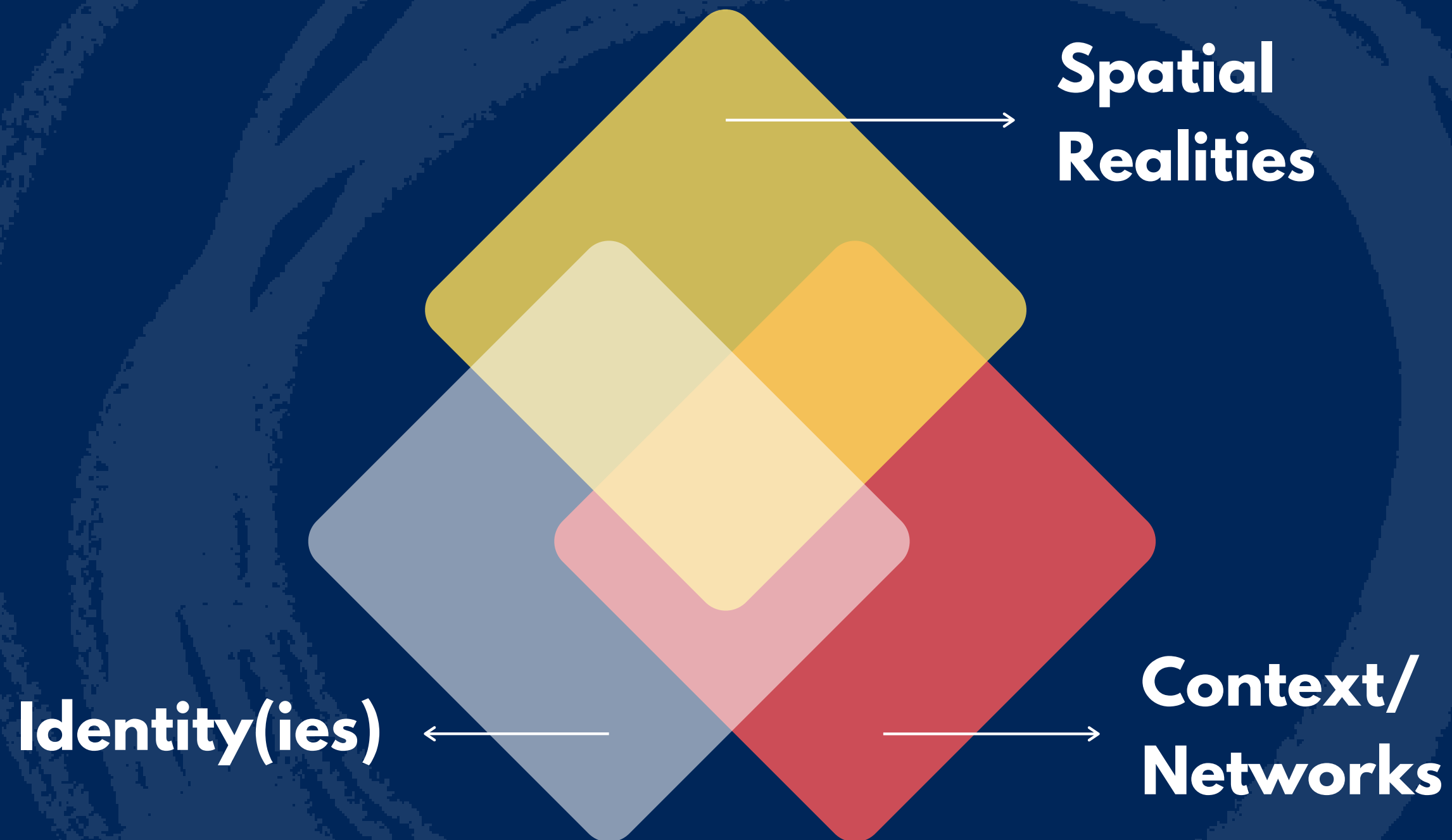


**THIS IS THE
CENTRE OF
MY UNIVERSE**

WHERE'S YOURS?

PRINT AVAILABLE FROM WWW.SADIEANDJUNE.CA

THE FUTURE IS **PLACE**-**BASED**





WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

**EMBRACING OUR EDGES REQUIRES
US TO LEVERAGE OUR EMBEDDED +
EMBODIED EXPERIENCE IN THE PLACES
WE LEARNED + EARNED THAT EXPERTISE**

- **The Islands Revival Declaration
(Scotland, United Kingdom)**

<https://islandsrevival.org/the-islands-revival-declaration/>

- **The Rural Rebound
(Rural Ontario Institute)**

<https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/ruralreboundcovid19>

- **Southwestern Integrated Fibre
Technology Inc: Connecting
Southwestern Ontario**

<https://swiftruralbroadband.ca/>

- **Women in Agriculture Scotland:
Innovation through Lock Down**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swrx4lmyx1s>

- **Indigenomics Institute**

<http://indigenomicsinstitute.com/>

- **The51: Financial Feminist Platform**

<https://the51.com/>

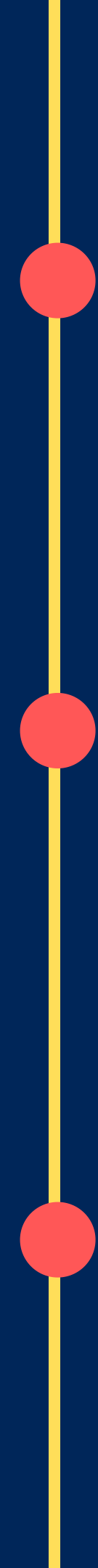


THIS IS **NOT** FAST WORK

IN MANY WAYS, THIS IS THE
UNGLAMOUROUS WORK OF
CARE + MAINTENANCE

THERE IS NO MAGIC FIX

"FIRST THE RAPTURE...
THEN THE DISHES"



We're not going to get out of this mess without confronting the uncomfortable truths it has exposed. All of us are on the hook for making sure social, economic, and environmental justice are made foundational elements of whatever we get involved in from here on out. Ask hard questions, and be ready to answer with something actionable.

Programmatic responses cannot meaningfully overcome systemic and structural challenges. We need your best, most radical ideas if we're going to re-imagine how we build our communities. Do not wait for someone else to come to the rescue - they may never arrive. Make no small plans, but remember to show up today in a way that makes it possible to show up tomorrow and the day after...

Reinventing the way we connect, create, and serve our communities will require deep commitment to aligning our actions with our values. Ground yourself in the place that is the centre of your universe. Find, acknowledge and understand your edges so that other people have something to connect with - and so you can honour others' edges. This includes being honest about our tender parts and pain points, our needs and our responsibilities to each other.




DON'T GET DISTRACTED.

Your first and last question should always be:

"so what?"

Get clear on the "WHY" of your work. That's your most important edge. If your "WHY" is at the core of the "WHAT" and the "HOW" of your actions, you will find your alignment with "WHO" you are intended to serve.



You will always be too much of something for
someone:
too big,
too loud,
too soft,
too edgy.
If you round out your edges, you lose your edge.
Apologize for mistakes.
Apologize for unintentionally hurting someone -
profusely.

**BUT DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR
BEING WHO YOU ARE.**

DANIELLE LAPORTE



GET IN TOUCH

TWITTER: @ASHLEIGHWEEDEN

EMAIL: WEEDENS@UOGUELPH.CA

WWW.RURALDEV.CA/ASHLEIGH-WEEDEN





SOME MORE THINGS TO CONSIDER...

Words, ideas, and questions...

How Canada's rural communities can become innovation hubs:

<https://torontoist.com/2016/10/how-canadas-rural-communities-can-become-innovation-hubs/>

CRRF Rural Insights Series: COVID-19

www.crrf.ca/covid-19

Radical Rurality: Imaging Multiple Futures Beyond City Limits:

<https://some-thoughts.org/weeden.html>

Will post-COVID policies realize the full potential of rural Canada?

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/july-2020/will-post-covid-policies-realize-the-full-potential-of-rural-canada/>

The coronavirus pandemic is pushing Canadians out of cities and into the countryside

<https://theconversation.com/the-coronavirus-pandemic-is-pushing-canadians-out-of-cities-and-into-the-countryside-144479>



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Words, ideas, and questions...

● **Just Recovery for All:**
<https://justrecoveryforall.ca/>

● **A Feminist Recovery Plan for Canada**
<https://www.feministrecovery.ca/>

● **Joint CED Sector Recommendations for
the Recovery and Post-COVID Economy**
<https://ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/new-in-ced/2020/05/14/sector-recommendations-recovery-and-post-covid>

● **Build Back Better**
https://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/ProfessionalDevelopment/managing_uncertainty_webinar/Build_Back_Better_After-COVID-19

● **Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation**
<https://www.crrf.ca/covid19>