

# ***Evaluation: An Evolving Profession***

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## **Basic Assumption**

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If we accept there is value to evaluation and apply the beliefs we espouse to our clients, it should be a constantly evolving field.

# **Is this assumption valid?**

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This session will explore the following questions:

- Have we evolved as a profession?
- In what ways?
- Has that evolution resulted in positive change?

## **In what ways?**

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*“One major contribution of the professionalization of evaluation has been the articulation of standards for evaluation. The standards make it clear that evaluation ought to be useful”*

Michael Quinn Patton. Utilization-Focused Evaluations

# Examples of Other Evolution

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- Ethics
  - CES Guidelines for Ethical Conduct
  - Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Approaches
- Approaches
  - Utilization-focused
  - Appreciative Inquiry
- Types
  - Meta-evaluation
  - Horizontal
- Methodologies
  - Multiple lines of Inquiry
- Tools
  - Web-based tools
  - Inter-rater reliability of tools

# **The Evolution of the Evaluator**

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- As an expert
- As a facilitator
- As a change agent
- What other roles?

## **What Specific Efforts Have Been Made Towards Improvement?**

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- Core Body of Knowledge
- Journal devoted to applications of CBK
- Credentialing study currently underway
- TBS Centre of Excellence for Evaluation
- Ottawa Ad Hoc Group → NCC/CES

## **Questions to ponder**

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- Is this evolution positive?
- How do we know?
  - What are the indicators?
  - How do we get information related to the indicators?
- How do we engage evaluators in contributing to the ongoing development of this relatively new profession?