



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #2

GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING

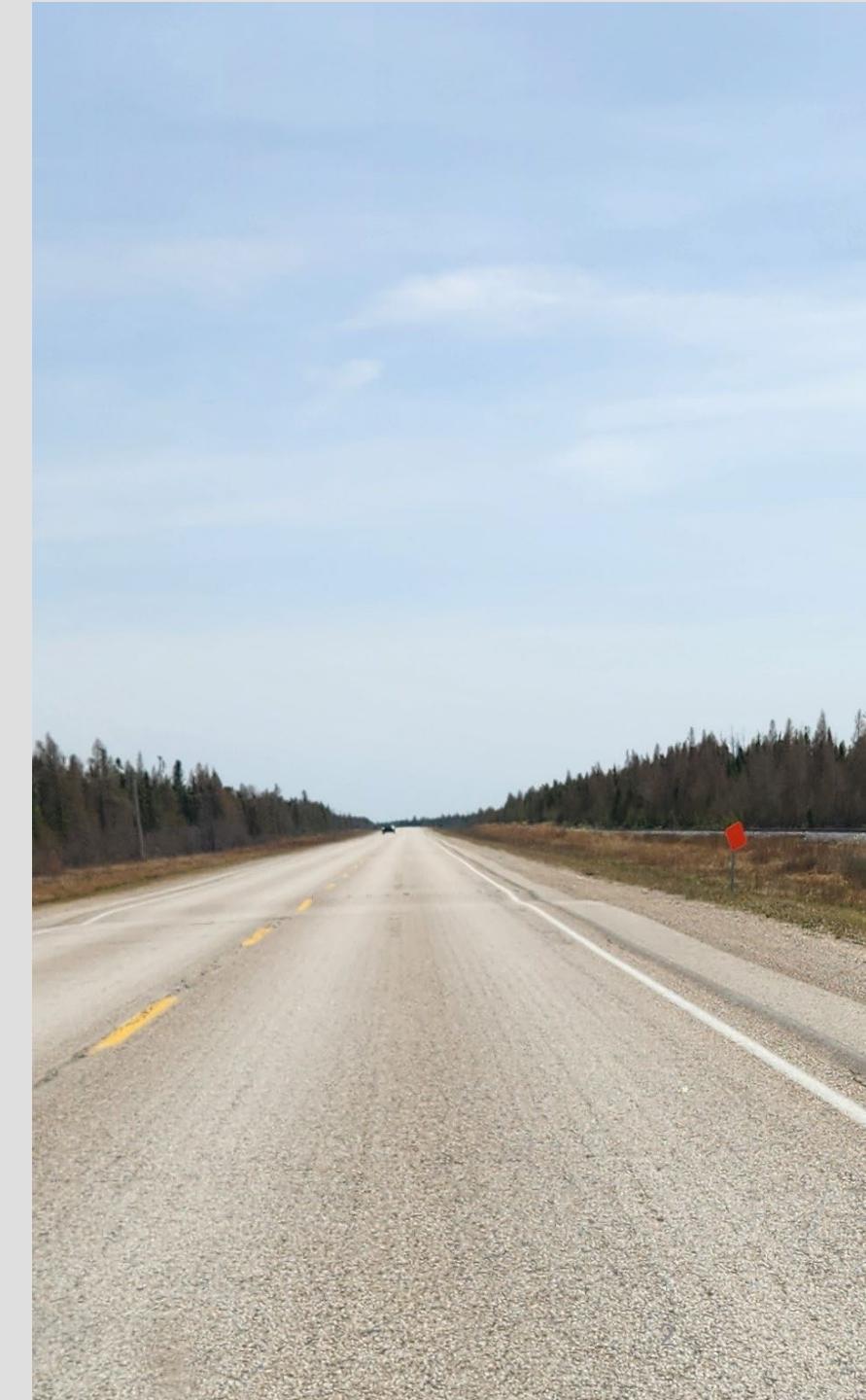
February 2, 2026
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, CST

Facilitated by Inga Petri, Strategic Moves

Welcome and Introductions

In the CHAT:

- Your name
- Where you live
- Your involvement with the arts, creativity, food, culture



Today's Agenda: Governance: From Structure to How to Work Together



- Shape practical governance
- Reflect on what we heard
- Think through decision-making
- Define roles & supports

Guiding Principles

- Listen actively
- Use the chat, raise your hand, unmute
- Make space
- Speak from lived experience
- Focus on ideas, not individuals

imagiNorthern is a “battery pack” for communities – fueling local initiatives and connecting them to resources.



Thanks to Max Burke (Churchill) for this analogy.

Regular Gatherings

**Arts
development**

**Connection
Cross-Sectoral**

**Market
development**

**Physical and
Digital
Infrastructure**

Advocacy

Funding

Regular Gatherings

Connection

Cross-Sectoral: Arts, Craft, Food, Education, Tourism ...

Arts development

“What you create, produce, make”

Market development

“How and where to sell, distribute; access”

Physical and Digital Infrastructure

“Maker spaces, hubs, website/e-commerce”

Advocacy

Funding

In practical terms: What We Do / Want to Do



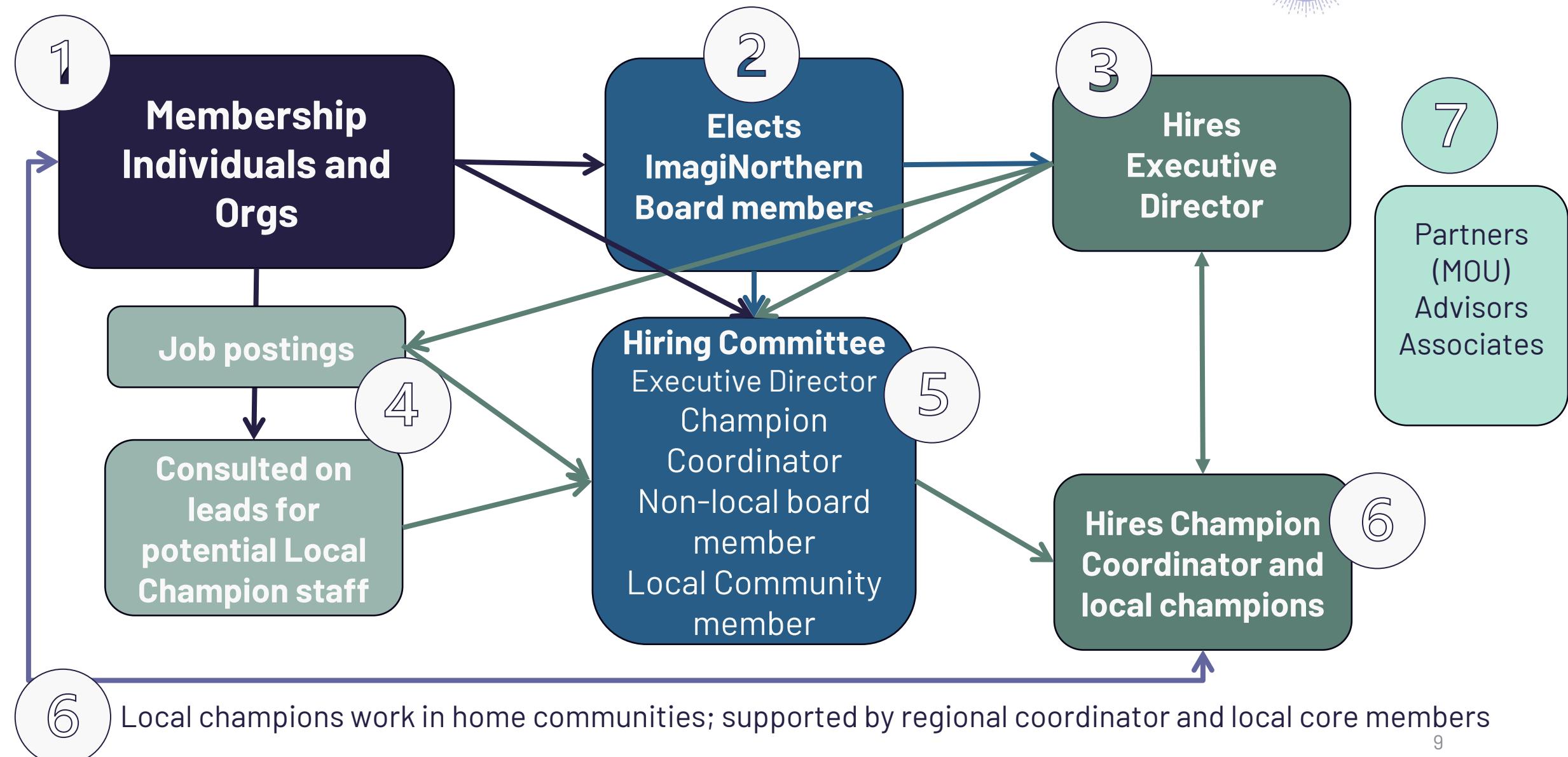
- Help develop community-based creative spaces
- Help expand digital commerce platforms
- Host regional workshops and professional development
- Grow visibility through outreach
- Support strong local leadership
- Facilitate cultural exchange and connection
- Support initiatives aligned with community goals
- Conduct data collection and shared governance

What We Heard



- **Inclusive membership**
- **Elected board**
- **Clear leadership structure**
 - Facilitative regional leadership
- **Transparent hiring**
- **Community-led network**

What We Heard - Yes to Individuals and Organizations as members, simplified, transparent recruitment process,



What We Heard: Yes to organizational structure with defined board and executive director, clear accountability



Members – Individuals and Organizations

imagiNorthern Board of Directors

Specific requirements, mix of skills and expertise

Executive Director

Champion Coordinator

Financial & Administrative manager
(bookkeeper & grant writer)

Local Champions

Does this reflect what you shared last time?

**Does anything need discussion or
clarification?**

Members' rights, privileges, obligations



- **Should there be one level of membership with all the same rights?**
 - Do organizations and individual members each have one vote at AGM, to elect board, etc.
 - Should organizations be non-voting or should they weigh more than individual members?
 - Should all the members of a member organization be automatically members of ImagiNorthern with all the same privileges?
- **What are your views on membership requiring payment of a membership fee or should membership be free (only require agreement to the mandate / mission of the organization).**
 - So far, ImagiNorthern has not had any formal membership. Anyone has been able to participate in gatherings, events for free; travel bursaries have been available for gatherings to reduce barriers.
 - **Help members / community organize by group / interest, e.g. visual artists, performing artists, food producers, arts organizations etc...**

Role of Local Champions



If someone in your community was the
imagiNorthern Champion and doing a great job —
what would they actually be doing week to week?

Respond in the chat; or speak up.

Poll

How Regional Staff Should Support Communities



What regional support would actually make a difference locally?

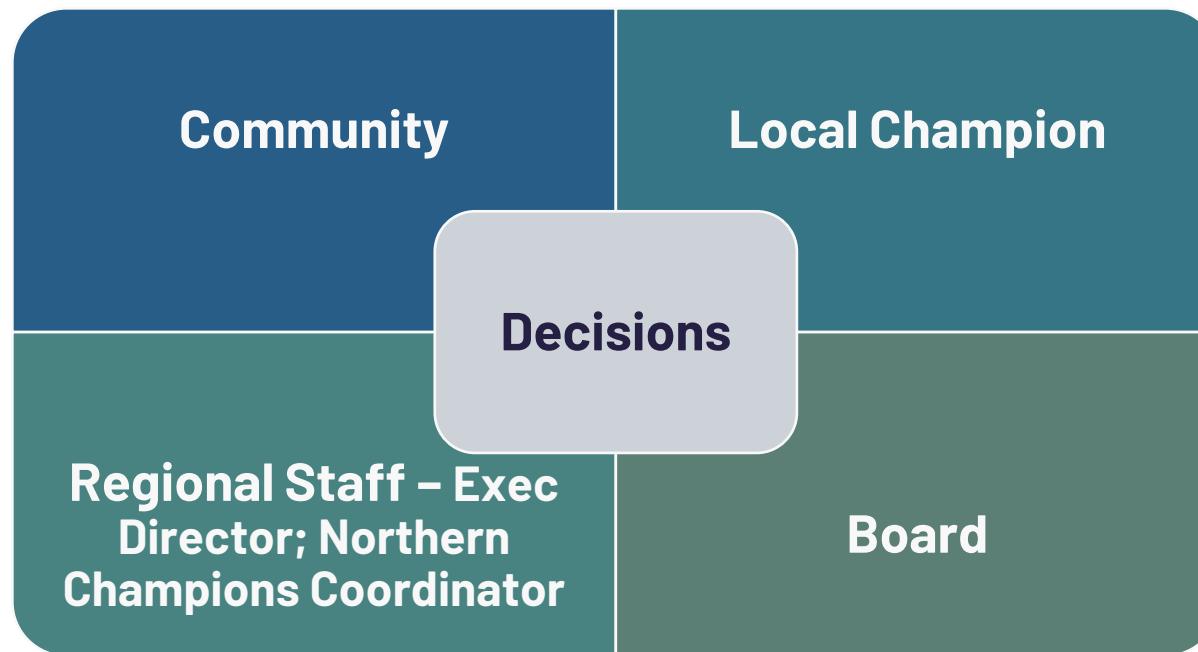
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Poll

Real Life Scenarios



- A community wants to start a new arts program — who decides?

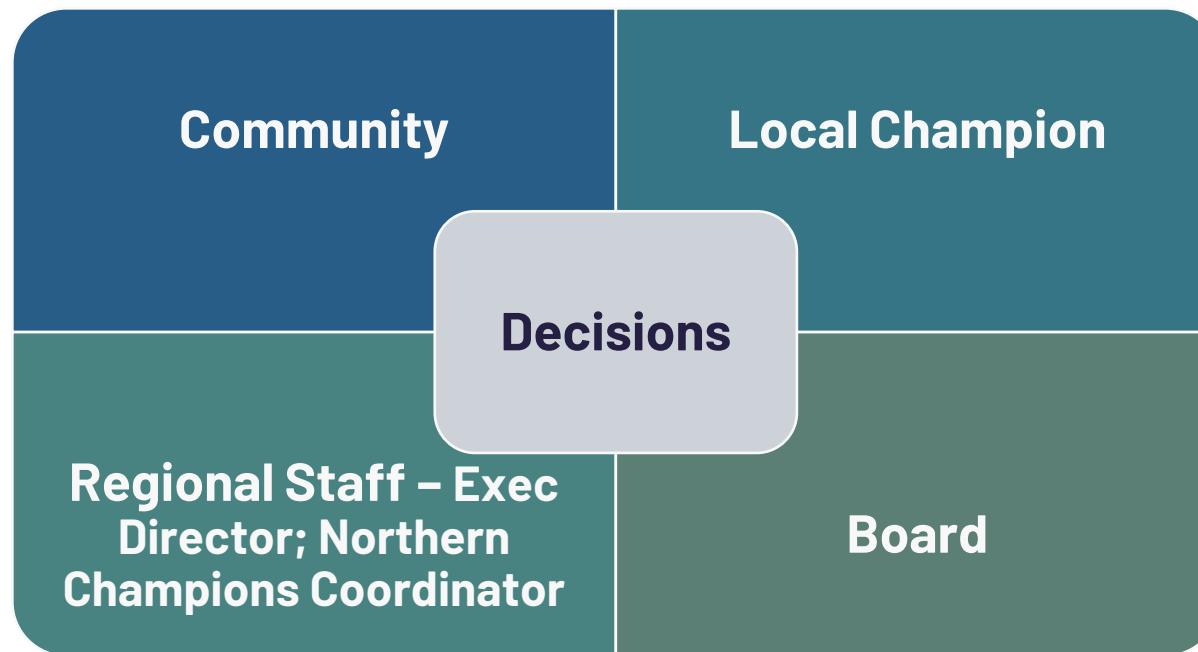


- Who should lead the decision?
- Who should be consulted?
- Who has final responsibility?
- How should transparency work?

Real Life Scenarios



- A champion isn't delivering — who steps in and how?

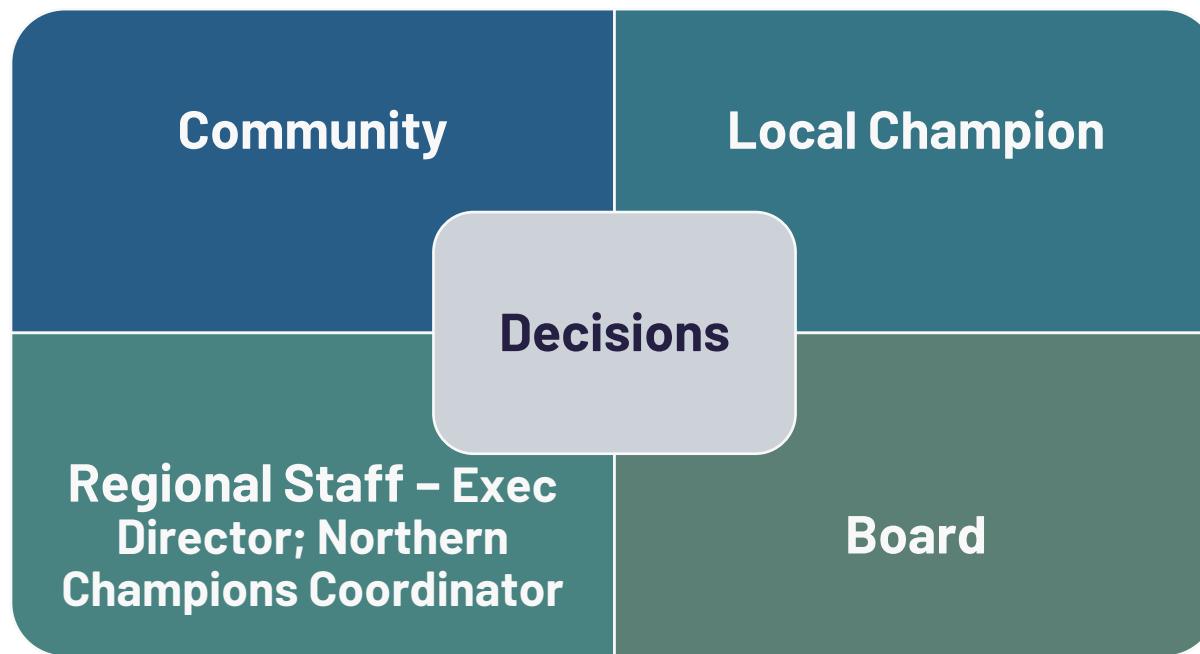


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Real Life Scenarios



- Funding opportunity comes up quickly — who acts?
- Two communities want the same limited resources — who prioritizes?

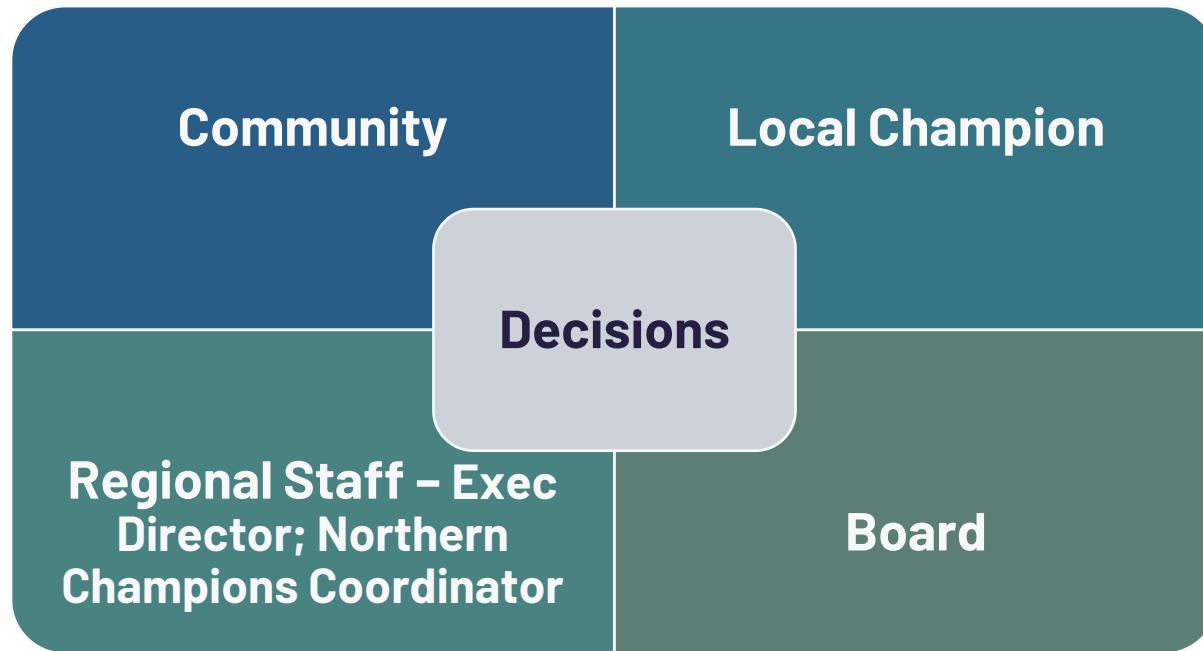


- Who should lead the decision?
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Real Life Scenarios



- A community disagrees with a regional decision — what happens next?
- A major shift in direction is proposed — how is community input gathered?



- Who should lead the decision?
- Who should be consulted?
- Who has final responsibility?
- How should transparency work?

Closing Reflection: What can imagiNorthern offer you



- **What should imagiNorthern always do?**
- **What should remain community-led locally?**
- **Where is support needed**

Respond in the chat; or speak up.

Next steps



- **Summary notes from this conversations with this group and anyone who has RSVP'd to the January 24 and February 2 conversations.**
 - Ongoing updates via email from imagiNorthern
 - Go to imaginorthern.ca to stay in touch, find out about gatherings, workshops, activities and events
- **Steering Committee meets February 4 to review your input and consider further.**
 - Final governance and community-rooted decision making later in February
 - Potential to survey you / interested people if any doubts remain
- **Prepare to create a stand along not-for-profit organization**
 - Bylaws
 - Initial board
 - Register
- **Share this information with your own friends, colleagues, networks and help grow our collective impact**