

Community Outreach on Planning & Development Resource: IAP2 Spectrum for Public Participation

International Association of Public Participation Spectrum

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) offers concepts, principles and current industry practice in relation to community engagement. IAP2 defines community engagement as: “Any process that involves the community in problem-solving or decision-making and uses community input to make better decisions.”

IAP2 developed a spectrum of public participation that helps define the community’s role in any community engagement process. The IAP2 Spectrum shows that differing levels of participation are appropriate, depending on the outcomes, timeframes, resources and levels of concern or interest in the decision to be made. Most importantly, the spectrum sets out the promise being made to the public at each participation level.

| | INFORM | CONSULT | INVOLVE | COLLABORATE | EMPOWER |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL | To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions. | To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision. | To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the preferred solution. | To place final decision-making in the hands of the public. |
| PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC | We will keep you informed. | We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. | We will implement what you decide. |

Source: [https://iap2canada.ca/Resources/Documents/0702-Foundations-Spectrum-MW-rev2%20\(1\).pdf](https://iap2canada.ca/Resources/Documents/0702-Foundations-Spectrum-MW-rev2%20(1).pdf)

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