Authentic Engagement:
Moving Participation from Informing Outcomes to Implementing Solutions

Presenters:

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Key Discussion Outcomes

1. Authentic engagement and outcomes

2. Strategies to achieve authentic engagement

3. Share our ideas and experiences

4. Facilitate dialogue on role of engagement in planning

Foundations of Community Engagement

Communication

- Clear language and messaging

- Accessible fonts

- Essential details of the event

Age Friendly

- Designing engagement opportunities for all ages and abilities
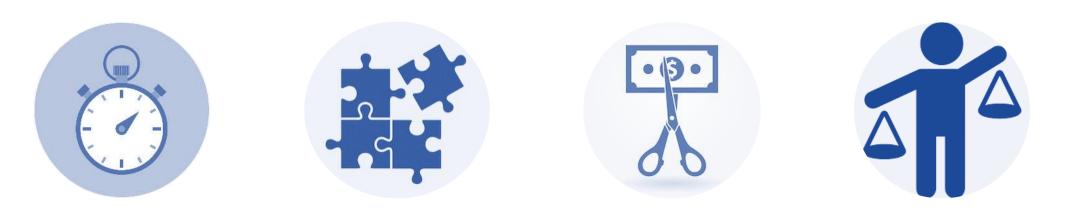
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Foundations of Community Engagement

Accessibility

- Legislative requirements (e.g. AODA)

- Municipal accessibility standards

- Design / format to be generally accessible for most persons

<u>Fun!</u>

Common Challenges and Constraints

Less Time

Limited Human Resources

Limited Budgets

Competing Priorities

Rural School Closures

Role of Rural Schools:

- Social cohesion and wellbeing

- Community resilience

- Social capital

- Community identity

Rural School Closures

Derby Public School:

- Location

- Process

- Narrative

- Outcome

That Derby Public School be closed effective June 30, 2016; and,

That the students at Derby Public School be re-located to Arran Tara Elementary School, Hillcrest Elementary School, and Hepworth Central Public School commencing September 2016 based on adjusted boundaries (as per Report AR 2015.16-02a *Appendix III*) and available school capacity for out of boundary requests (as per Administrative Procedure AP 6212-D).

Derby Public School and property sold

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Rural School Closures

Case Study Discussion:

- Evaluation of engagement process

- Loss of trust

- Impact to social and community fabric

- Missed opportunity

Indigenous Engagement

"Success lies where there is a deep heart-felt understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, where our differences make us stronger, and client-centered service delivery meets the needs of the individual client, or community."

Indigenous Engagement

- Collaboration

- Understand and celebrate

- Business etiquette

- Participate

Indigenous Engagement

- Respect

- Understand the 'seasons'

- Elders

- Youth

Indigenous Engagement

- Use local resources

- Cultural awareness

- Respectful language

- Ask questions

Lessons Learned

- **Authentic engagement and outcomes**

- **Authentic engagement and identifying solutions**

- **Authentic engagement and implementing solutions**

- **Shift focus of engagement from change management to implementing solutions**

Concluding Thought

Are we really engaging authentically?

Inclusionary   **Creatively**   **Context**

Thank you

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