



Me, Myself & Council

Understanding citizen
engagement as an
elected official and
municipal leader

AUMA Fall Conference • October 4, 2016

Focus

1

Citizen engagement and representative democracy

2

Citizen engagement as an elected official

3

Citizen engagement as a municipal leader, including under the *MGA*

Representative Democracy

You cannot have a democracy
without
well-informed
citizens.



Government Governance

In the traditional sense **government** rules and controls rely on compliance. However, a state of **governance** means management and coordination that calls upon all citizens to play a part in moving their community forward.

Government:

- linear model
- hierarchy
- formal institutions and procedures
- representation of citizens through election
- domination through rules or compliance activities may be required to ensure universal acceptance of a decision

Governance:

- network model
- multi-layer
- evolving and ongoing processes
- power is dispersed
- acceptance of and support for decisions by all players arises out of wide participation in earlier debate

The Spectrum of Citizen Engagement



Inform

To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Consult

To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

Involve

To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Collaborate

To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Empower

To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.

Source: International Association of Public Participation

So what does this mean for you?

AS AN elected official?


AS A municipal leader?



You, yourself and citizen engagement



YouTube CA Search



Hit the Like button if you liked the PM's performance!

0:04 / 2:35

Stephen Harper sings Beatles song with Yo Yo Ma

Stephen Taylor ☒

672

858,088 views



Naheed Nenshi @nenshi · Sep 6



I may still be in the office at 9 pm on my first day back with no end in sight, but happy first day everyone! **#year7**



59



539



Make the most of **citizen engagement**

Know **WHAT** you want to accomplish

Know **WHO** you want involved

Go **WHERE** the people are


Manage your **RISK**

Be your own **HERO**

Whatever you do – **DO IT**

WELL

You, yourself, and **your municipality**

	Town of Cochrane Policy
Policy No.:	1106-02
Policy Title:	Public Engagement Policy
Approval Date	June 12, 2006
Revision Date:	September 8, 2014
Division:	Human Resources and Communications

Policy Statement:

The Town of Cochrane and the Cochrane community recognize that public input can improve municipal decision-making. In order to gather public input, the Town of Cochrane is committed to:

- providing information to assist community members and stakeholders in understanding issues and opportunities;
- providing fair and equitable opportunities for positive contributions from community members and stakeholders;
- making every reasonable effort to reach, involve and hear from community members and stakeholders; and
- reporting public engagement results and Town of Cochrane decisions to community members and stakeholders.

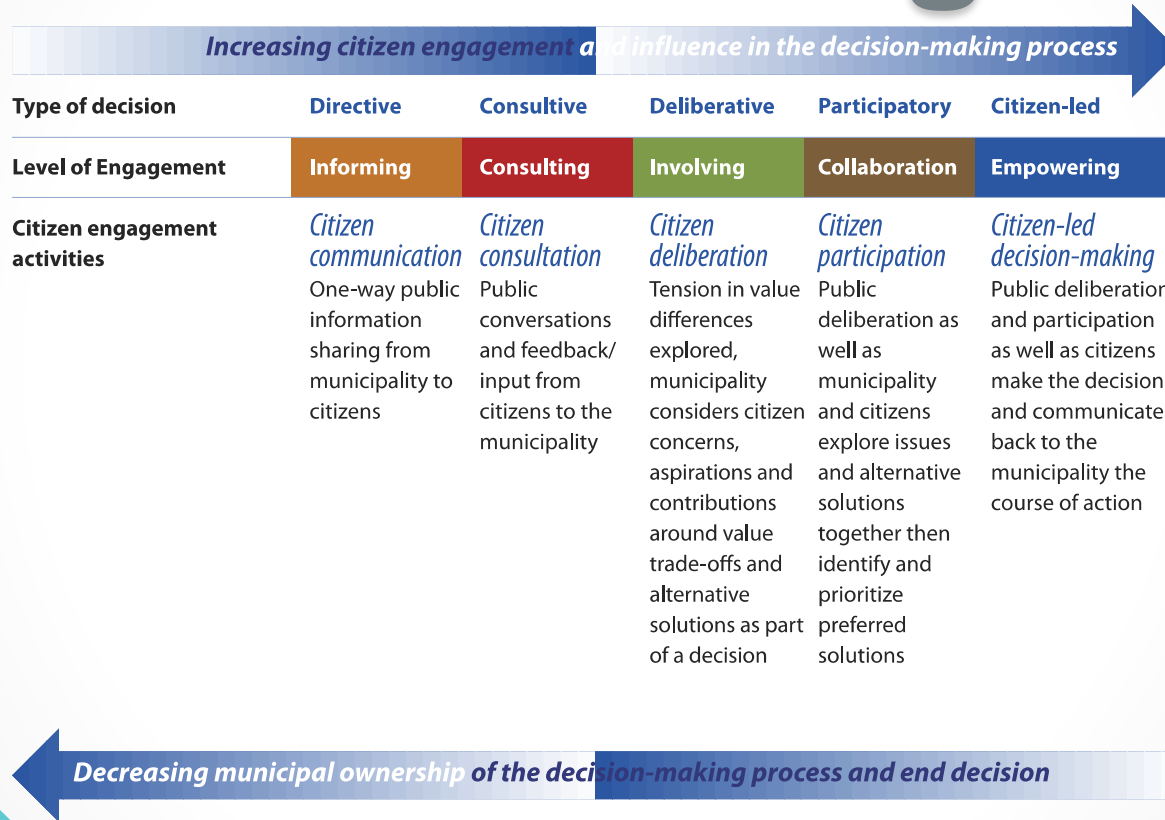
The Legal Threshold & MGA Updates

MGA REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

Section 197	Councils and Council committees must conduct meetings in public, unless section 2 or 2.1 applies.
Section 227	If Council calls a meeting with the public, notice of it must be advertised and everyone is entitled to attend.
Section 230	Describes when Council is required to hold a public hearing before second reading of the bylaw, or before Council votes on the resolution.
Section 251 (3)	A borrowing bylaw must be advertised.
Section 606	Describes the requirements for public advertising. Notice must be advertised at least once a week for two consecutive weeks or delivered to every residence in the area affected. Describes what a notice must contain.
Section 636	Describes notification and public input requirements related to preparation of a statutory plan.
Section 640 (2) (d)	Land use bylaw must provide for how and to whom notice of the issuance of a development permit is given.
Section 692	Council must hold a public hearing (section 230) and give notice (section 606) before giving second reading to adopt or amend a land use bylaw or statutory plan, i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• intermunicipal development plan,• municipal development plan,• area structure plan, or• area redevelopment plan.

Source: Alberta Municipal Government Act

Decision-making



Adapted from Alberta Municipal Affairs, 2011; International Association of Public Participation ©2006; and The Praxis Group, 2012.



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