

SFU'S WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE AWARDED FOR RESEARCH INTO INCLUSIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

(no placeline - Sept. 14, 2021) Important work at Simon Fraser University, to help public participation professionals ensure that consultation processes hear from all affected people has been honoured by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Canada. The Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at SFU received the 2021 IAP2 Canada Research Project of the Year for its guidebook, *Beyond Inclusion: 8 Principles for Equitable Public Engagement*.

“Inclusion is integral to ethical and effective public engagement,” says team lead, Elodie Jacquet. “Hearing from people with diverse lived experiences leads to more innovative ideas, better decisions and stronger democracies. However, many groups of people remain under-represented in engagement processes due to systemic barriers and inequities. These inequities have been starkly brought to light in the past two years.”

Beyond Inclusion grew out of a research paper produced for IAP2 Canada on ways organizations are achieving more inclusive engagement practices. The research team continued its work with a participatory research and consultation process involving community members, engagement practitioners, and representatives from governments and civil society. While *inclusion* was the initial theme, participants emphasized the importance of *equity*—building reciprocal relationships and sharing power with communities to co-create accessible and meaningful engagement processes.

“Our hope is that the eight principles and tools presented [here] will support the meaningful and equitable inclusion of diverse voices in public engagement processes across sectors.”

IAP2 Canada judges noted that the City of Victoria is already using the guide to develop an equitable engagement framework and that an international version will be published later this year.

As winner of the Research Project of the Year award, the *Beyond Inclusion* project will now compete against research projects from other IAP2 affiliates world-wide. The results of that competition will be announced at the end of October.

The *Beyond Inclusion* guide can be downloaded [here](#).

Read the initial IAP2 Canada research report, [Inclusion and Equity in Public Participation here](#).

All of the 2021 IAP2 Canada Core Values Award winners can be viewed online, at <https://www.iap2canada.ca/cva-2021>.

ABOUT SFU / WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE: Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue fosters shared understanding and positive action through dialogue and engagement. As a trusted convener and hub for community initiatives, we have engaged hundreds of thousands of citizens and stakeholders to create solutions for critical issues such as climate change, democracy and civic engagement, peace and security, inter-cultural dialogue, urban sustainability and health.

About IAP2 Canada: IAP2 Canada is the country's preeminent organization dedicated to promoting, supporting and improving the practice of Public Participation. Its 1100 members in all thirteen provinces and territories, working in all levels of government as well as industries and academia, seek to ensure that people affected by a decision are consulted in the making of that decision and are informed of the way their input affected the outcome. IAP2 Canada is part of a worldwide organization, with regional affiliates in Australasia, Indonesia, the USA, Southern Africa, and individual members in Italy and Latin America.