



Many Voices, One Table:

Co-Creating the Future of
Public Participation



IAP2 NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE & GALA

VANCOUVER, BC // OCTOBER 1-3, 2026





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Thank you for bringing your voice to the table.

Many Voices, **One Table**: Co-Creating the Future of Public Participation

Vancouver, BC // October 1-3, 2026

WWW.IAP2NAC.COM



2026 IAP2 NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE & GALA

Many Voices, **One Table**: Co-Creating the Future of Public Participation

Vancouver, BC // October 1-3, 2026



WELCOME TO VANCOUVER

*A city shaped by many voices, cultures,
and perspectives.*

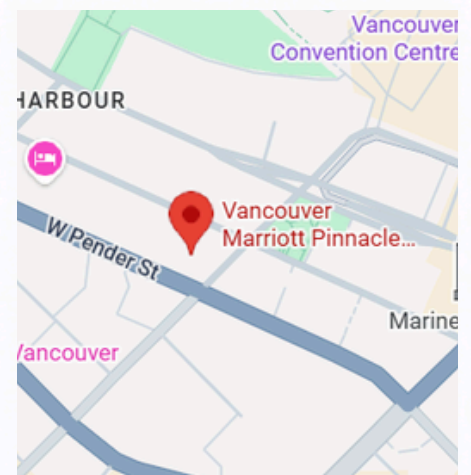


Many Voices, One Table: Co-Creating the Future of Public Participation *October 1-3, 2026*

Vancouver is a beautiful coastal city surrounded by mountains and water. It is a place where a rich mix of communities, cultures, languages, neighbourhoods, and perspectives come together every day.

Our city's diversity is one of its greatest strengths. Many experiences and viewpoints shape how we live, work, and connect.

Just as Vancouver thrives through connection and dialogue, this conference brings people together to listen, learn, and co-create solutions. Many voices, working together at one table, building a stronger future for all.





CONFERENCE ESSENTIALS

CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel
1128 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6E 4R5

REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

Thursday, October 1st
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Friday, October 2nd
7:00am - 9:00am

Saturday, October 3rd
7:00am - 9:00am

CORE VALUES AWARDS GALA

An evening that brings the community together in recognition, connection, and shared purpose.

The Gala opens the 2026 conference on October 1, at the Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Vancouver — the first moment participants come together in person, setting the tone for everything that follows. This isn't simply an opening event; it's a shared beginning, a space to arrive, connect, and step into the experience alongside others shaping the future of public participation.

WHAT THE EVENING HOLDS

The evening unfolds with intention, creating space for both gathering and reflection:

- A reception that invites conversation from the moment you arrive
- A hosted dinner shared across the community
- The presentation of the Core Values Awards
- Time to connect, reflect, and engage with others

At the centre of the evening is the presentation of the Core Values Awards — recognizing projects, organizations, and individuals whose work reflects meaningful public participation across North America, acknowledging contributions that have strengthened how decisions are shaped through engagement, supported inclusive and respectful processes, and created lasting impact within communities. It's a moment where the field comes together to recognize its own work, its progress, and its shared direction.

BADGE REQUIREMENTS

Admission to all activities requires your name badge. Please cooperate by wearing it at all times.

SUGGESTED ATTIRE

Gala: Formal

Conference: Smart Business

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

All conference sessions, meetings and social events are held in smoke-free environments.

PHEEDLOOP GO

Conference details can be found on the PheedLoop app as well as on the conference website.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The 2026 IAP2 North American Conference features a dynamic program designed to inspire new ideas, strengthen practice, and foster meaningful connections. Guided by this year's theme, **Many Voices, One Table**, delegates will explore emerging trends, practical approaches, and real-world experiences that are shaping the future of public participation.

Across keynote presentations, interactive workshops, panel discussions, case studies, and collaborative learning experiences, delegates will engage with thought leaders and practitioners who are tackling some of the most important questions facing our profession today.

Explore conversations on...

THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

How can we build trust, strengthen democracy, and ensure participation remains meaningful in an increasingly complex world?

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP & WAYS OF KNOWING

Discover approaches grounded in relationships, respect, reconciliation, and Indigenous knowledge that invite us to think differently about engagement.

INNOVATION, AI & EMERGING PRACTICE

Explore how technology is transforming public participation—and where professional judgment, ethics, and human connection remain essential.

BUILDING STRONGER ORGANIZATIONS

Learn practical strategies for embedding engagement into organizational culture, strengthening leadership support, and building lasting capacity for participation.

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY BELONGING

Examine approaches that remove barriers, amplify diverse voices, and create spaces where communities can participate with confidence and authenticity.

FACILITATION, COLLABORATION & MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE

Strengthen the skills that help navigate complexity, build consensus, and create conversations where every voice has the opportunity to contribute.

STORIES, CASE STUDIES & LESSONS FROM PRACTICE

Hear firsthand experiences from practitioners across sectors as they share innovative projects, lessons learned, and ideas you can bring back to your own work.

Whether you're an experienced practitioner or new to the field, the conference program offers opportunities to challenge your thinking, expand your toolkit, and connect with colleagues who share a commitment to meaningful public participation. Together, we'll explore new perspectives, exchange ideas, and discover how **many voices** truly create **one table**.

2026 CORE VALUES AWARDS NOMINEES



The Core Values Awards celebrate excellence in public participation by recognizing organizations and teams that are advancing meaningful engagement through innovation, leadership, and impact.

We extend our sincere appreciation to every organization that submitted an application to the 2026 Core Values Awards. By sharing your work, you contribute to the continued growth of our profession, foster learning across sectors, and inspire others to advance meaningful public participation in their own communities.

We are proud to recognize the following organizations for participating in this year's awards application program:

- AECOM Canada ULC
- City of Austin
- City of Boulder
- City of Burlington
- City of Delta
- City of Guelph
- City of Kitchener
- City of Medicine Hat / Maskwa Environmental Consulting
- City of Vancouver
- City of Vancouver, Indigenous Relations
- City of Vaughan
- City of Winnipeg / Civicplan Inc.
- Connect the Dots
- IAP2 USA Cascade Chapter
- Indigenous Health, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Intelligent Futures
- ISL
- Metro Vancouver Regional District
- MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement
- Nova Scotia Health
- Port de Sept-Îles
- Port of Seattle
- Regional Municipality of Niagara
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
- SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue / City of Burnaby
- Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
- Strathcona County / TRANSFORM HF

Award recipients will be announced and celebrated at the 2026 Core Values Awards Gala, taking place during the 2026 IAP2 North American Conference in Vancouver. We look forward to recognizing the outstanding people, projects, and organizations that continue to strengthen the practice of public participation.



MIDDLE GROUND

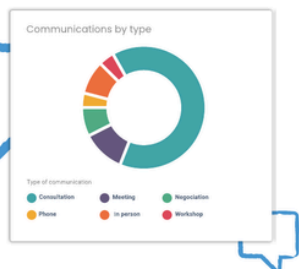
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Less time typing, more time talking!

Visit today's AI workspace for
consultation teams at
middle-ground.ca

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Turn Stakeholder Engagement into a Strategic Advantage.

Borealis, now part of Irth, gives infrastructure and energy teams one platform to manage relationships, reduce risk, and stay compliant at every stage of a project.

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20+
years of stakeholder
engagement expertise

8,000+
users across a growing
global community

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KEEP THE CONFERENCE IN YOUR POCKET.

PheedLoop Go App

Keep the conference at your fingertips.
Access the program, session & speaker
information and virtual exhibits
throughout the event.

GALA MENU — CHEF ANDREW GEORGE

The menu selections represent the waters, the sky, the earth and the land of the Wet'suwet'en people from north central British Columbia.

- Three Sister Soup (vegetarian)
- Clam Fritters
- Wild Berry-Glazed Buffalo Meatballs
- West Coast Seafood Feast
- Fiddlehead Wabanaki
- Marinated BC Berries with Sabayon & Whipped Soopallalie



- Author of *A Feast for All Seasons*
- Vancouver Community College Alumni Award, 2008
- Province of British Columbia Top in Trades Award, 2008
- Vancouver Community College Award of Excellence (Lifetime Achievement), 2025
- King Charles Medallion recipient, 2024
- British Columbia Restaurant Hall of Fame, 2024

IAP2 CORE VALUES



The Core Values define expectations and aspirations of the public participation process. Processes based on the Core Values have been shown to be the most successful and respected.

The Core Values were developed with broad international input to identify those aspects of public participation that cross national, cultural, and religious boundaries.

1

Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.

2

Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.

3

Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.

4

Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.

5

Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.

6

Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.

7

Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.



INFORM

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INVOLVE

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EMPOWER

IAP2 CODE OF ETHICS



The Code of Ethics is a set of principles that guide us in our practice of enhancing the integrity of the public participation process. As P2 practitioners, we hold ourselves accountable to these principles and strive to hold all participants to the same standards.

1

PURPOSE

We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.

2

ROLE OF PRACTITIONER

We will enhance the public's participation in the decision-making process and assist decision-makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.

3

TRUST

We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.

4

DEFINING THE PUBLIC'S ROLE

We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.

5

OPENNESS

We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.

6

ACCESS TO THE PROCESS

We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.

7

RESPECT FOR COMMUNITIES

We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to "divide and conquer."

8

ADVOCACY

We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for a particular interest, party, or project outcome.

9

COMMITMENTS

We will ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision-maker, are made in good faith.

10

SUPPORT OF THE PRACTICE

We will mentor new practitioners in the field and educate decision-makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.





2026

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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome, bienvenue, to the 2026 IAP2 North American Conference and Gala.

This year, we chose a theme that is close to my heart: **Many Voices, One Table**.

It's a simple phrase, but it holds so much power. It's a promise, a reminder that the very best engagement happens not when we speak the loudest, but when we listen the deepest, when we pull up chairs for perspectives that challenge us, enlighten us, and ultimately make our work richer and more impactful. And that's exactly what we've built into every corner of this year's program.

We've assembled an absolutely incredible lineup: thought-provoking speakers, trailblazing practitioners, brilliant researchers, and passionate partners from every corner of North America. Whether you're a seasoned pro or new to the field, whether you're presenting or just soaking it all in, there is a place for you at this table.

As you read through this program, I hope you'll feel the energy buzzing from the West Coast: the excitement of new ideas waiting to be sparked, of connections waiting to be made, and of a community that truly cares. We've designed this conference to be a space where you can grow, reflect, challenge yourself, and most importantly, belong.

Are you coming to discover fresh approaches? To sharpen your skills? To laugh with old friends and make new ones? To find your people? Whatever your reason, know this: we are so glad you're here, and we are counting down the days until we can welcome you with open arms (and maybe some West Coast sunshine!).

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being the heartbeat of IAP2 Canada. Your passion drives everything we do. Now, let's make Vancouver 2026 unforgettable.

I'll see you at the table.

With warmth and excitement,

Rebecca Smith

Executive Director, IAP2 Canada

“

...the very best
engagement happens
not when we speak the
loudest, but when we
listen the deepest...

”



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WELCOME FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



On behalf of IAP2 Canada, welcome to the 2026 North American Conference and Gala.

We're glad to bring this gathering to Vancouver, on the traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw. It feels fitting that a conference about listening and shared decision-making begins on land where relationship and ways of knowing continue to shape how engagement is understood.

Our theme this year, Many Voices, One Table: Co-Creating the Future of Public Participation, reflects something at the heart of our practice: that good engagement isn't measured by how well we speak, but by how well we listen. The two eagles at the centre of this year's conference identity, facing one another, in conversation, capture that idea exactly. A complete conversation is one where every voice carries equal weight, and where difference is not something to manage but something to draw strength from.

Over the next few days, you'll find that spirit throughout the program, in sessions on Indigenous engagement and reconciliation, equity and inclusion, youth perspectives, and the real, often complex work of bringing people into decisions that affect them. Whether this is your first IAP2 conference or one of many, I hope you leave with new tools, new connections, and a renewed sense of why this work matters.

Thank you for being here, and for the voice you bring to the table.

Welcome to Vancouver. Welcome to NAC 2026.

Cara Lenoir

President, IAP2 Canada

“

**A complete
conversation is one
where every voice
carries equal weight...**

”



2026

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A MESSAGE FROM IAP2 USA LEADERSHIP



The North American Conference, now in its 15th year, has been a cornerstone of the IAP2 community, a place where practitioners from across Canada and the United States come together to learn, connect, and advance the practice of public participation.

What makes this conference special is the opportunity to bring our two organizations together. While we serve different communities and contexts, we share a common commitment to meaningful engagement and the belief that better decisions are made when people are meaningfully involved in the process.

Many of the challenges facing our profession today, building trust, navigating complexity, and adapting to new technologies, extend beyond borders. By learning from one another, we strengthen our collective ability to meet these challenges and create more effective, inclusive engagement practices.

This year's theme, Many Voices, One Table, reflects the spirit of the North American Conference itself. It is a reminder that our profession is strongest when we come together, share perspectives, and learn from one another.

We are grateful to our colleagues at IAP2 Canada for hosting this year's conference in Vancouver and for their continued partnership. We look forward to the conversations, connections, and ideas that will continue to strengthen public participation across North America.

Josh Stepherson
President, IAP2 USA

Erin Zimmerman
Executive Director, IAP2 USA

“

**...our profession is
strongest when we
come together, share
perspectives, and learn
from one another.**

”



Scan the QR code to
access our resources.

SFU MORRIS J. WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE

creating space for
TRANSFORMATIVE
CONVERSATIONS

For 25 years, SFU's Centre for Dialogue has worked to strengthen Canadian democracy by promoting democratic participation and innovation, spreading best practices through dialogue training and tools, and collaborating with partners to engage the public through our consulting services. We are proud to work alongside the IAP2 community to foster a participatory democracy that is meaningfully integrated with decision-making, equitable, deliberative, dialogic and grounded in relationships.

- Partner with our social enterprise to pilot new P2 approaches and build organizational capacity
- Visit our conference booth for a free copy of the IAP2 award-winning Beyond Inclusion guide
- Adopt the Maturity Model for Public Participation to establish quality standards and support ongoing learning and evaluation

MEET US AT NAC '26

**Addressing the
Gap Between
Public
Participation and
Decision-Making**

OCT 1

**Building Public
Participation
from the Inside
Out**

OCT 2

**Deep Democracy
Embodied
Training**

OCT 3





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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Registration Desk Open

Pinnacle Foyer

In Person

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Cocktail Reception

Pinnacle Foyer

In Person

Join us for the Cocktail Reception before the formal Gala program begins — a moment to arrive, reconnect, and settle into the energy of the night ahead.

6:00 PM

Gala Opens with Indigenous Welcome

Pinnacle Ballroom

In Person

Welcome & Opening | Kick off the 2026 IAP2 North American Conference with a warm welcome from IAP2 Canada as we gather to celebrate, connect, and set the stage for three days of learning, dialogue, and collaboration.

6:45 PM

Gala Dinner & Core Values Awards

Pinnacle Ballroom

In Person

Gather with colleagues from across Canada and beyond for an evening of great conversation, networking, and celebration over dinner.

MEET YOUR GALA NIGHT MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Elmer Eashappie & Emina Dervisevic

Two exceptional voices in engagement. One unforgettable evening.

Elmer and Emina bring warmth, wisdom, and a deep commitment to the power of bringing people together as they take the stage to guide our 2026 Gala Night.



MEET YOUR CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Gladys Rowe & Aidan Eyakuze

Two visionary voices. One shared call to listen deeper.

From Indigenous knowledge and storytelling to open government and democratic renewal, Gladys and Aidan bring bold ideas and hard-won experience to the stage — challenging us to rethink what meaningful participation really looks like.





SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>Hybrid</i>		Registration & Breakfast Indigenous Welcome & Opening Remarks Carleen Thomas & Cara Lenoir	
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Pinnacle Ballroom <i>Hybrid</i>		Keynote In Stories as Guides: Listening Our Way Toward the Future of Engagement Dr. Gladys Rowe	
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM Pinnacle Foyer <i>In Person</i>		Coffee Break	
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>In Person</i>		The New Era of Engagement: Participation Has Changed. Have We? Martina Battistone & Sophia Robison	
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>Hybrid</i>		Rethinking Public Participation: Indigenous Collaborative Engagement, Reconciliation and Cultural Safety in Action Elmer Eashappie & Emina Dervisevic	
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom <i>Hybrid</i>		Lunch & Learn Professional Development Spotlight Judy Carlick Pearson (IAP2 Canada Training & Development)	
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>Hybrid</i>		Beyond Consultation: Building Trust Through Visual and Indigenous-Led Engagement Chief Frank Antoine (Chief of the Bonaparte First Nation)	
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM Pinnacle Foyer <i>In Person</i>		Power Up Networking Turn up the energy and make these 30 minutes count. Build your skill set, exchange ideas, make new connections and get involved.	
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>Hybrid</i> From Policy to Practice: Practical Public Engagement in Municipal Government Lyndsay Ward, Maral Hamayeli, Robyn Braun, Jason Timmons, Graeme Matchuk & Olivia Howard		3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 2 <i>Hybrid</i> Many Voices, Over Many Years: Co-designing Across Generations of Engagement Joanne Jacyk	
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 3 <i>In Person</i> Building Public Participation from the Inside Out Nicole Armos & Michelle Bested			
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>Hybrid</i> Words Matter: The Words We Use and the Meanings They Carry — A Practitioner Discussion Dr. Sherry Campbell & Valérie Lehmann		4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 2 <i>Hybrid</i> Human vs. AI vs. AI: A Live Community Engagement Challenge Colin Ellis & Charles Connell	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 3 <i>In Person</i> Internal Alignment, External Trust: Engagement Lessons from Megaprojects Paulette den Elzen, Sarina Grewal & Jenan Nasser			
Riley's Vancouver 200 Burrard St. Vancouver		An Evening Social IAP2 Canada BC/Yukon Chapter & Open Point Join in-person, after the conference, until 6:30pm Reservations required. Limited capacity. Visit www.iap2nac.com for more details.	



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>Hybrid</i>		Registration & Breakfast Indigenous Welcome & Opening Remarks Carleen Thomas & Rebecca Smith	
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Pinnacle Ballroom <i>Hybrid</i>		Claiming a Seat at the Table: Participation as the Antidote to Democratic Decline Aidan Eyakuze	
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Pinnacle Foyer <i>In Person</i>		Power Up Networking Turn up the energy and make these 30 minutes count. Build your skill set, exchange ideas, make new connections and get involved.	
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>Hybrid</i> The Power of Connection Devon Clunis	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Pinnacle Ballroom 2 <i>Hybrid</i> IAP2 Spectrum Evolution 2026: A Million Dreams Dr. Tracey Ehl, Luis Oré & Dr. Cassie Hemphill	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Pinnacle Ballroom 3 <i>In Person</i> Deep Democracy Embodied Training Dr. Aftab Erfan	
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>In Person</i> Neurodivergence as Design Intelligence: Moving Beyond Participant Inclusion Brittney Kroiss & Kelly Guthrie	11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 2 <i>Hybrid</i> Technology at the Table: A Panel Discussion Joseph Thornley, Aaron Bernard, Justin Lagac, Ward Ferguson & Dan Keane	11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 3 <i>In Person</i> Engagement Ethics in the Wild Wild West Carrie McIntosh	
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Pinnacle Foyer & Ballrooms 1–3 <i>In Person</i>		Lunch Connect Enjoy a curated lunch selection in the Foyer before heading in to connect. Community of Practice — Healthcare (Ballroom 1) Community of Practice — Young Professionals (Ballroom 2) CP3 Networking (Ballroom 3)	
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>In Person</i> RAMP (Radical Access for Meaningful Participation) Up Engagement with Disabled People Jodi Ball & Gabrielle Peters	1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 2 <i>Hybrid</i> Beyond Operations: Putting People at the Centre of After-Action Reviews Shauna McGarvey & Dr. Clint Abbott	1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 3 <i>In Person</i> From Presence to Partnership: Practicing Culturally Grounded and Inclusive Engagement Dawn Deguire & Sarah Beer	
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM Pinnacle Foyer <i>In Person</i>		Power Up Networking Turn up the energy and make these 30 minutes count. Build your skill set, exchange ideas, make new connections and get involved.	
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>In Person</i>		Beyond Silos: Building an Integrated Model of Engagement Across Clinical Care, Research, and Education Dalya Kablawi	
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Pinnacle Ballroom 1 <i>In Person</i>		Conference Reconnect and Closing Remarks Cara Lenoir	



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Jambo centralizes all stakeholder, Indigenous, and community communications in one secure platform, so your team can better manage relationships, stay on top of issues and commitments, and turn months of engagement into a report in seconds.

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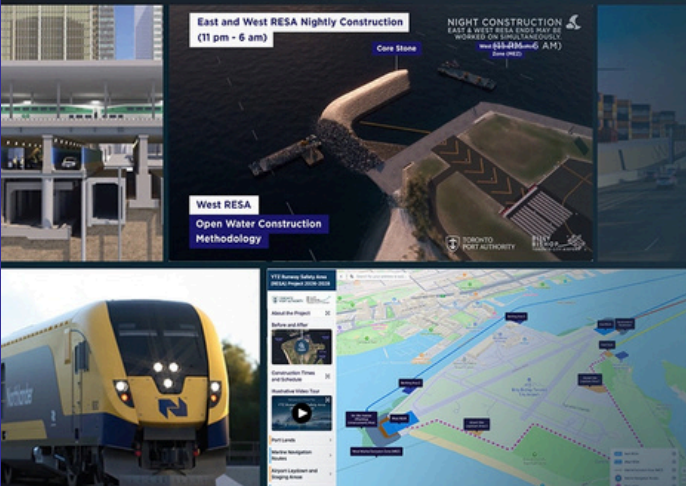
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PROJECT & EIS MAP PORTALS
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THAT CONNECTS EVERY VOICE

Engage more people, gather richer feedback and turn community input into actionable insights faster. Social Point brings participation tools, visual project pages, AI-powered analysis and reporting together in one place.

✓ **Engage Beyond the Vocal Minority**

Reach more voices with accessible, interactive engagement tools.

✓ **Turn Feedback into Insight, Faster**

Use AI-powered sentiment and thematic analysis to uncover trends, themes and what matters most in your community.

✓ **Bring Your Engagement Together**

Run surveys, interactive maps, forums and more. All in one platform.

✓ **Close the Loop**

Show how community feedback informs decisions with clear, transparent reporting that builds trust and demonstrates impact.

Built to support engagement aligned with IAP2 principles.

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STATE OF ENGAGEMENT

Meaningful engagement takes more than participation. Communities want to feel heard and see how their input shapes decisions.

We surveyed 1,500 people across North America, including engagement professionals and community members, to uncover the gap between engagement effort and outcome, and what it takes to close it.

95%

of practitioners agree
outcomes are influenced
by particularly vocal
participants

38%

of community members
believe their views actually
influence decisions

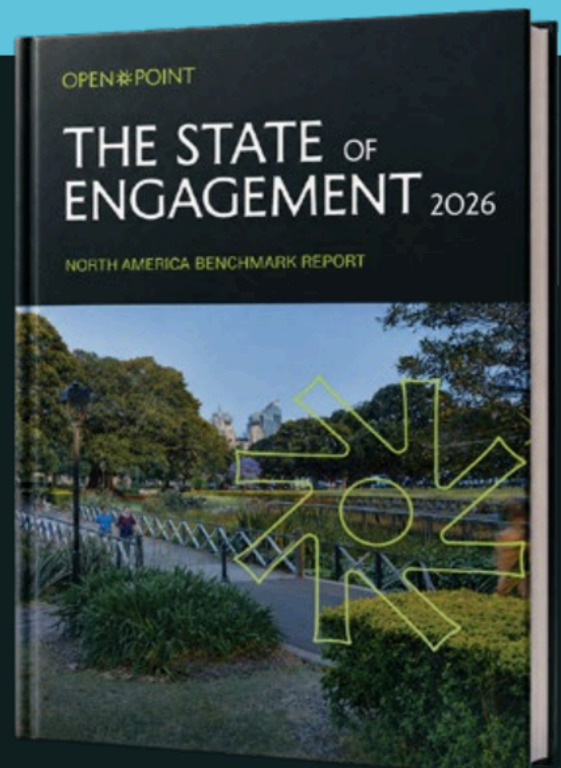
25%

felt clearly listened to
or were told what
would happen next



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BY OPEN POINT





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