# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY





# **Public participation policy**

The City of Dieppe recognizes that public participation and collaboration can make local administration more efficient, increase its options, improve the quality of its decisions and make use of the problem-solving abilities of residents and organizations outside local administration.

Public participation includes, but is not limited to, any form of in-person, technology-aided, or online public engagement that provides for individual or small group discussion, dialogue, or deliberation among participants, allowing residents to engage meaningfully in the policy process.

# **Public participation continuum**

The following table defines the levels of engagement of any public participation exercise initiated by the municipality. It is used to frame the processes as well as to clarify and communicate the expectations and results to the participants.

### **LEVELS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (P2)**

Low level of influence and participation

High level of influence and participation

All levels of the continuum involve information sharing and collaboration.

CONSULT	INVOLVE	ENGAGE
Goal of public participation:	Goal of public participation:	Goal of public participation:
Ask participants' opinions on analyses, options or potential decisions.	Work directly with participants throughout the process to ensure their concerns and wishes are truly understood and taken into consideration.	Work in partnership with participants at all stages of the decision-making process, including the development of potential options and the final decision, i.e. let the public make the final decision.  The parties share responsibility for implementing aspects of policy, program or other decisions.
Our commitment to the public:	Our commitment to the public:	Our commitment to the public:
We will keep you up to date, we will pay attention to your concerns and wishes, and we will communicate how public comment has influenced decisions.	We will work with you so that your concerns and wishes are directly reflected, as far as possible, in the options developed. We will communicate how public comment has influenced decisions.	We will count on your advice and ideas to find solutions, and we will implement what you decide.

## **Public participation values**

The seven following values have been derived from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and serve to define the expectations of residents involved in public participation processes. IAP2 has stated that processes based on the Core Values have been shown to be the most successful and respected in the long term.

- a) 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.
- b) Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- c) Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- d) Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- e) Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- f) Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- g) Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.





The City of Dieppe has a public participation Web platform where you can give your opinion, exchange ideas and get informed in a respectful and safe space. Visit <a href="www.dieppedialogue.ca">www.dieppedialogue.ca</a> now to learn about and participate in current or upcoming public participation projects.