

Public Engagement is “the practice of inspiring, supporting and challenging people in groups of dynamic cycles of learning, reflection and action on global issues. It is a transformative process that works towards more equitable social, economic, environmental and political structures”

- From Hive Mind: Engaging the Public for the Greater Good, the ICN online course on Public Engagement

The Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) will be subsidizing the participation of three participants from each of the Provincial and Regional Councils at the Public Engagement Catalyst Forum, taking place from **October 11th to 13th 2017** at the **Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

The ICN Public Engagement Catalyst Forum 2017 is a national initiative of the ICN that seeks to develop organizational capacity in public (community) engagement, and to increase the overall development effectiveness of Council members and other public engagement (PE) practitioners across Canada. This event draws on the body of work undertaken by the ICN from 2011 - 2014 to articulate and share good practice in PE on global poverty issues available as an online Toolkit at GlobalHive.ca. Over the past two years the ICN has developed and launched an online PE course with four learning modules. These include: Introduction to PE; Youth Engagement; Engaging the Formal Education Sector; and Partnerships and Collaboration. To date, this course has been of interest to over 400 individuals. This Forum also builds on the May 2017 national PE Knowledge Exchange focused on Engaging Canadians on a New Transformative Global Agenda. The members of the ICN actively supported the development of this event that was presented jointly by the CCIC PE Working Group and Global Affairs Canada, in Ottawa.

The Councils recognize that Canadian organizations seeking to end poverty and develop a just world, often engage Canadian communities for global action and social change. The various initiatives to engage communities and the greater public are defined and practiced in diverse and innovative ways, often in alignment with local contexts, interests and needs. The ICN recognizes and honours these, and wishes to reinforce, build on and create space for synergies in the existing capacity of engagement practitioners through this Public Engagement Catalysts Forum.

The Forum will convene approximately 50 PE practitioners from coast-to-coast-to-coast for a two-day, bilingual Forum intended to:

- Foster and build strategic commitment to public engagement on global sustainable development
- Provide space for deeper exploration of feminist and rights-based approaches, the sustainable development goals, thought leadership and effective monitoring and evaluation of PE
- Critically examine current PE tools and approaches including social media
- Provide the opportunity to share ideas and expertise, and identify potential partnerships and synergies

The program will likely feature an exclusive tour of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, as well as an evening networking event featuring artists who use their art for social change.

A limited number of subsidies are available to participate.

Eligible costs for a subsidy include:

- Travel (most direct economy fare, to be arranged by ICN staff)
- Accommodations (shared, to be arranged by ICN staff)
- Meals (compensated through ICN per diems)

In order to manage our costs, as well as ensure that we can accommodate as many subsidized participants as our budget allows, subsidized participants will sharing accommodations.

Subsidies will be based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated interest and practice of public engagement. This would include persons who are involved in human-rights, community, social justice, and/ or environmental education, global citizenship, among others...
- Interest and understanding of global development issues
- Depth of connection with their local community and an understanding of community context, needs and sustainable development issues unique to that community.
- Demonstrated level of ambition for social change and passion for the social well-being of others.
- Motivation and commitment to engage the Canadian public in education for global social change.
- Commitment and enthusiasm to learn new information, gain new skills, and participate in Council/ ICN projects beyond the Forum.
- Willingness to promote the event (through social media or otherwise), or serve as a session host/ facilitator.
- Association with a provincial/regional council.

Council Board members, staff and interns, are welcome to apply.

In the spirit of promoting accessibility and diversity the selection committee will also take into consideration an applicant's past opportunities to participate in training or professional development. Further, the committee agrees that applicants will be ranked based only on information that is submitted.

Internal Considerations:

- Preference would be given to Council members.
- Equity of access to opportunities (members that have not applied for subsidization before; those that work or are based-in remote or rural areas; those who do not have other access to opportunities)
- Participation dependent on funding?

To apply, send the following information to Jacqui Wasacase, Executive Director of SCIC no later than September 5th, 2017 by email: director@earthbeat.sk.ca

Personal Information:

- Name
- Location (Both City/ Town and Province)
- Gender
- Age
- Council Affiliation
- Organizational Affiliation
- Job Title (if staff person with an organizational member)
- Linguistic capacity (English or French-only, or bilingual)
- What are your top learning needs from the Forum
- What are some of the main things you would want to contribute to the PE community (expertise in certain areas, experience and lessons learned in innovative programming, resources, ...)
- Funding: Is your participation fully dependent on whether you are subsidized or not?

Statement of Interest (maximum of 250 words) that would include the following:

- Elaboration of work in public engagement, including
- How long have you been working in public/ community engagement

- What is the nature of that work
- Who is the “community” that you engage? Main stakeholders?
- What interesting programming have you been part of or undertaken
- What are some of the main questions/ challenges you they have to address in your work
- What are some of the main lessons learned