

MEDIA RELEASE - MANITOBA GOVERNMENT EARNS TOP HONOURS FOR ENGAGING PUBLIC

(No Placeline - Sept. 14, 2021) - Continuing work to ensure the public has meaningful input into provincial decisions through the online portal EngageMB has earned the Government of Manitoba one of the top awards from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Canada. The government received Organization of the Year at IAP2 Canada's Core Values Awards, presented Monday at a virtual celebration.

EngageMB grew out of a determination to transform the way government connected with the public. The transformation strategy included a strong commitment to position Manitobans' insights and knowledge at the centre of government decision-making. An advisory team developed a consistent set of standards, tools and technology, using the IAP2 Core Values and Spectrum of Public Participation, for the civil service to follow. A website set up to allow Manitobans to provide their input on policy decisions proved particularly successful, with 150,000 people -- 10% of the province's population -- registering to use it. During the pandemic in 2020, the level of engagement increased 470% over the year before.

"We've built an extensive community of Manitobans eager to have their voices heard and we are using their feedback to inform policy decisions," said Finance Minister Scott Fielding. "Our goal is to invite Manitobans into a new relationship with government."

IAP2 Canada judges were particularly impressed with the level of commitment to public consultation at the senior level of government, as well as with the mandatory requirement to report back on how public input affected the decision within 90 days of the close of the process.

As Organization of the Year, the Manitoba Government will compete against Organizations of the Year from other IAP2 regional affiliates for the International award. That award will be announced this fall.

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

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About the Government of Manitoba:

Manitoba was one of the last jurisdictions in Canada to adopt a deliberate framework for engagement, provide centralized access to engagement opportunities and historically

the results of public engagements were reported back to the public inconsistently. In 2018 our transformation strategy positioned government to do public engagement differently. It included a strong commitment that as we transform the work of the Manitoba public service the feedback, the insights and knowledge of Manitobans will be at the centre of our decision-making. [EngageMB](#) is the central engagement portal of the Manitoba Government. Its use is managed by the Communications and Engagement division in the Department of Finance. The portal was launched in November 2019 and has grown to represent a community of 150,000 Manitobans eager to participate in the government decision-making process.

About IAP2 Canada: IAP2 Canada is the country's preeminent organization dedicated to promoting, supporting and improving the practice of Public Participation. Its nearly 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.