



Drew Snider <drewdsnider@gmail.com>

IAP2 Canada Newsletter - February 2014

1 message

IAP2 Canada <info@iap2canada.ca>
 Reply-To: IAP2 Canada <info@iap2canada.ca>
 To: Drew Snider <drewdsnider@gmail.com>

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NEWSLETTER

February, 2014



IAP2 North American Conference

Reflecting Forward – Public Participation Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

The IAP2 North America Conference Committee is busily planning for the event on September 28-30, 2014. The theme of this year's conference, "Reflecting Forward", will provide an opportunity to explore the factors that have shaped public participation, reflect on the practice today (not just the successes, but also our failures), and envision what the future of public engagement will hold. [Read more here ...](#)

Volunteers needed for 2014 IAP2 North American Conference!

Want to help make sure the Conference is a roaring success and get some "perks" along the way? Check out the newly-launched [Conference Web Page](#) for "Volunteer Opportunities".

IAP2 Canada Board Elections soon!

Nominations will open **February 24** for positions on the IAP2 Canada Board of Directors.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone passionate about making a difference in P2 in our country; we are particularly interested

INSPIRING PRACTICE

In each newsletter, we highlight a P2 effort that has been particularly successful and/or provides lessons from which our members can benefit. If you have been involved with or know of a P2 experience that should be shared with others, share it with us at info@iap2canada.ca.

"Shape Your Future Victoria" - City of Victoria's Official Community Plan Update

by Vince Verlaan, Verlaan Engagement Services and Training

With a population of 83,000 and an ambitious target to engage 5,000 people, the City of Victoria set out to update its Official Community Plan (OCP). The goal was to develop a 30-year plan for the City with a broad base of community support. The unique challenge for the City was to shift the role of citizen participation from its focus on neighbourhood planning issues, which are often site-specific, to a future-oriented and citywide conversation about a sustainable city. [Read more here ...](#)

CORE VALUES AWARDS UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who took the time to help us design a made-in-Canada awards and recognition program for public engagement in our country!

Nominations for the 2014 IAP2 Canada Core Values Awards will open **April 1st**, so start thinking about people and projects that embody the IAP2 Core Values, and whose practice should be recognized and shared at our inaugural Core Values Award Gala on September 29th in Winnipeg. [Read more here ...](#)

FEATURE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Moving Beyond the Minimum

Valuable Tools from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)
 by Tracey Ehl, MCIP, RPP (tracey@ehlharrison.com), Karla Kolli, MCIP, RPP (kkolli@dillon.ca) and Mike Sullivan, MCIP, RPP

As planners, we are required to identify and consult the public for a variety of reasons – statutory requirements of the *Planning Act* or *Environmental Assessment Act*, municipal norms and practices, and stakeholder pressure to be involved in decision-making. Drafting notices and holding public information centres have become commonplace on a planner's to-do list.

Just meeting the minimum requirements often isn't good enough to make informed recommendations in the public interest. Hearing the same old messages from the same few people doesn't sit well. [Read more here ...](#)

IAP2 Canada Launches Full Research Initiative Report

in people with the following specific skills/experience:

- financial management
- fundraising
- strategic marketing
- virtual collaboration (chapter relations)
- governance & administration
- international relations (IAP2 experience required)

More details will be announced in the coming weeks, so watch the [IAP2 Canada website](#) and your email inbox for further information.

Volunteers are also needed for the Board Nominations Committee. Please contact info@iap2canada.ca if you're interested.

CHAPTER NEWS

Great Lakes Chapter

- Interested in helping out at Great Lakes Chapter, but pressed for time? Consider the role of returning officer for the upcoming elections. It would require roughly two hours of time per week over a one month period in February. Please [contact us](#) asap!
- You can find additional information about the Core Value Awards Program at <http://www.iap2canada.ca/corevaluesawards>.
- The Executive Team is considering signing an agreement with IAP2 Canada to formalize our relationship. A final draft is available for your information and review.
- We are in the process of planning our first Annual General Meeting in the spring. We'll have a short business meeting and then host an exciting discussion, Experiences in Aboriginal Engagement. The date, location and guest speakers will be announced shortly.

To contribute ideas or get more information, please contact the [executive team](#).

Prairies Chapter

The new IAP2 Prairies Chapter has just completed its exciting inaugural year. In addition to getting the Chapter up and running and setting a strategic direction, they brought IAP2 training to Manitoba, meeting substantial pent-up demand, grew their membership from 38 to about 60 members, facilitated a webinar series and held lunch and learn and meet and greet events! [Read more ...](#)

St. Lawrence Chapter

Following the success of the St. Lawrence Chapter lunch and learn event in Ottawa last November, members of the chapter steering committee are organizing the chapter's first official activity in Montreal!

[Read more here ...](#)

Wild Rose Chapter

Throughout 2013, IAP2 Canada engaged its members on its research initiative which aims to better understand current public participation activities in Canada. Research focused on identifying trends, best practices and areas of innovation, as well as evaluating current research and publications for the purpose of identifying opportunities for partnership and collaboration. Contained within the report is: an environmental scan, the state of the practice survey report and the IAP2 Canada member survey report. [Read more here ...](#)

President's Message -- February 2014



Anne Harding

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

I hope this message finds you having had an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends and getting into the groove of a new year. As we gear up for 2014, I find myself reflecting on last year's challenges and accomplishments and thinking about what might be different for me and my P2 practice this year. As I "*reflect forward*" (a hint at this year's [conference](#) theme), I'm reminded of Stephen Covey's advice to sharpen one's saw; that is, to make time for physical, mental, social/emotional, and spiritual renewal in the interest of preserving and enhancing oneself. [Read more here ...](#)

IAP2 Canada 2013 Board Performance Review

As part of IAP2 Canada's ongoing commitment to good governance and continuous improvement, the 2013 Board of Directors undertook an assessment process to identify strengths and gaps in terms of its performance as a board. This process included both confidential individual performance conversations between each board member and the President, as well as a group assessment process.

A [summary report](#) is now available for members to review. The summary is intended to provide IAP2 Canada members and other stakeholders with an overview of the outcomes of the 2013 performance assessment process. If you have any questions or comments about the assessment process or outcomes, please feel free to send us a note at info@iap2canada.ca.

SHARPENING YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

What do you want to learn?

We are working on a learning strategy for IAP2 Canada and have one big question for you to help us move ahead: **What are the core competencies that a P2 professional needs to do their job?** [Read more here .](#)

The Innovation Project – Bringing the IAP2 Training Materials Up-to-Date

To keep training materials fresh and state-of-the-art, they need to be revised and updated on a regular basis. The Innovation Project was created to do just that for the IAP2 Certificate training material used by the Licensed IAP2 trainers around the world. [Read more here ...](#)

From the trade papers ...

There's been a lot of buzz about "Participatory Budgeting", and [this item in DemocracySpot](#) gives some case studies on the positive effect it has on people's lives.

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Wild Rose Chapter is pleased to offer [three new training sessions](#) this winter and spring. Click [here](#) for a list of the sessions, dates and locations.