



# School of Public Administration Professional Development Workshop Series 2011/12

## The Challenge of Civic Engagement

This workshop explores the connection between institutional policy decision making and modes of input and participation in these decisions by civil society. It provides opportunities to develop specific civic engagement skills including design analysis, and implementation strategies for engagement and deliberation such as world cafes, deliberative polls, dialogue forums, town hall meeting, citizen juries, citizens' assemblies and participatory budgeting.

### Learning Objectives

- Assess the individual and collective benefits, as well as the challenges of particular forms of policy collaboration, consultation, and engagement;
- Determine which collaborative and/or civic engagement strategies are the best fit for particular circumstances of policy making within various institutional and social contexts;
- Design, implement and evaluate an effective collaborative process related to a public policy issue or dispute.

### Principles

The workshop will focus on exploration of individual and collective benefits of civic engagement as well as the challenges to develop, implement and sustain collaborative decision making mechanism in the public policy process.

### Format

The workshop will be organized around several current policy issues that are more or less contentious and which may benefit from engaging non-institutional parties in discussion. Participants take part in case discussion and at least simulations where participants will be asked to take on different roles outside of the traditional realm of policy decision making.

### Instructor Bio

Dr Ney holds a BA (Hons) and a PhD in Psychology from Southampton University, and an MA in Dispute Resolution from the University of Victoria. Prior to her faculty appointment at the School of Public Administration, Tara worked in government, non-profit, and private sectors as a clinical and forensic psychologist, and has extensive experience in community development, both locally (restorative justice programming) and internationally (post-conflict zones). Her current research focuses on exploring more inclusive but effective ways to do our policy arguments. She is the author of over 40 journal articles and reports, as well as two edited volumes. In 2008 she was elected to political office as a municipal counselor in Oak Bay.

### Workshop Details

**Date:** Spring 2012 TBD

**Time:** 9:00-4:00

**Location:** On-campus, specific location TBD

**Cost:** \$575.00

**Instructor:** Tara Ney

