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BC Chapter Website

The BC Chapter webpage is www.iap2bc.ca. Visit it often to see what's new and to view the updated **Calendar of Events**.

Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you!

[Catherine Rockandel](#), President

[Daniella Fergusson](#), Member
Services Coordinator

[Drew Ferrari](#), Secretary

[Sarah McKinney](#), Treasurer

[Deborah Jensen](#), Program
Coordinator

[Lisa Moilanen](#), Partnership
Development Coordinator

[Carolina Quintana-Kohut](#), Training
Coordinator

[Jackie Pichette](#), Youth
Coordinator

[Vince Verlaan](#), Director, Special
Projects

[Anthea Brown](#), Director, Special
Projects

President's Message

Catherine Rockandel - President, BC Chapter

Lately the Executive has been discussing the role of IAP2 in British Columbia. The Chapter organizes events, we promote training of IAP2 certified trainers, share information and research with our members through the website and an E-bulletin. As President over the past few years, my experience has been that **the Chapter functions as a Community of Practice**, a loose collection of practitioners that get together occasionally.

We have explored a variety of outreach, communication and promotional methods. We have enhanced our website, email and social media outreach. At the request of members we have hosted events in different communities, we have had interesting speakers on topics suggested by the membership. For example: Bob Joseph, spoke at our AGM on Aboriginal Engagement. Yet, participation at events remains low. I am hopeful that we can attract practitioners to these discussions as an active membership grows the practice, deepens the conversation and learning.

Vince Verlaan, an IAP2 BC director and I are committed to hosting Community of Practice discussions. We look at the role of public participation, how as practitioners we can support organizations to do more meaningful engagement within existing organizational cultures. Other topics include developing shared value related to environmental sustainability and the role of public participation in moving from discourse to practice.

Vince and I, as self employed practitioners understand how busy our professional and family lives can be. However, if you value the survival of the BC Chapter then I strongly urge you to **support the Chapter by at a minimum attending an event or contacting the Chapter executive about a topic you think would be of interest** to your group of practitioners. I hope to see you at an IAP2 BC event this year.

Warmest regards,

Catherine

May 2014

Calendar of Events

Please forward this bulletin and event invitations to your network.

BC CHAPTER EVENTS

P2: How to Create a Supportive Culture in Our Organizations.

Are you interested in the booming field of public participation? Do you do this kind of work now, as a volunteer or an employee? Are you a student with a budding interest, or a seasoned professional?

Join some of your colleagues and fellow public participation practitioners as we discuss the most promising ways to "embed" the use of P2 methods in the organizations we are part of. This will be a facilitated discussion rather than a heavy presentation, and we will be asking and answering a lot of questions together. Come and join this community of practice!

- **WHEN:** Tuesday, June 3, 2014
- **TIME:** 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- **WHERE:** Heritage Grill, New Westminster, BC
- **COST:** \$10, which includes one drink and appetizers
- **RSVP by May 30:**
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/p2-how-to-create-a-supportive-culture-in-our-organizations-tickets-11704357047>

TRAINING COURSES

For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.iap2bc.ca/training>

IAP2 Training: June

Analyze This! Making Sense of Conflict in Public Engagement (1 day course)

- June 17, 2014
- Hosted by [Dialogue Partners](#)

Standing in the Fire: Transforming Conflict Through Collaboration (2 day course)

- June 18-19, 2014
- Hosted by [Dialogue Partners](#)

Getting Past the Usual Suspects

How to increase the amount and diversity of engagement is a familiar problem for P2 practitioners, and in March, IAP2 BC hosted "Getting Past the Usual Suspects," a networking social and speaker panel event in Vancouver. The event brought out more than 40 members, professionals, and students, eager to learn and share experiences. There were even visitors from California, Oregon and Alaska taking part.

Claire Havens, Program Manager at Carbon Talks, kicked off the panel describing recent projects at the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Centre for Dialogue on regional transportation issues. Claire spoke about the importance of sharing clear and concise information so participants can provide informed feedback. She also mentioned that simple techniques, like ending meetings on time, can build trust and relationships.

Tessica Truong followed by describing the Co-Design process, spearheaded by Stanley King. Tessica focused on youth engagement, and shared principles that serve to engage many people who typically do not get involved in engagement processes. Tessica highlighted that trust building is crucial, empowering participants to run processes within their communities.

Michael Alexander, Director of Simon Fraser University's City Conversations, described how the program brings people together to discuss our most pressing challenges. City Conversations tackle a wide range of issues, including climate change, transportation, tensions due to land shortages for agriculture and industry; and even community friendliness and connectedness.

Key lessons learned raised by the panelists and our audience included:

- **Invest** in inviting people to participate.
- Go to **where people are**, rather than asking them to come to you.
- Provide **incentives** to get involved, like prizes, food, childcare, transportation, and compensation for their time.
- Be clear about **"what's in it for them"**, i.e. the participants.
- Make sure **clear and accessible background information** is provided, to ensure informed discussion.
- Communicate **how input will influence the decision** being made.
- Focus on **what matters** to the participants.
- Set **diversity targets** and stick to them.
- Set up the room to be **inclusive**.
- **Build trust** and relationships.

Participants also raised challenging issues. For example, how can staff host more inclusive and legitimate engagement processes if the organization's mandate or leadership does not provide the scope to do so? We also had a lively debate about the Spectrum of Participation and how the level to which people are engaged can be influenced. Overall, the event was a great opportunity to bring our Lower Mainland BC members together and to introduce students and engagement practitioners to our organization.

"Getting Past the Usual Suspects" is available on [YouTube \(click here\)](#).