

POLICY #117C

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Policy Title:	Public Participation
Policy Number:	117C
Approval:	Town Council April 14, 2025, <u>Motion 25-114</u>
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Supersedes Policy No.:	New

Policy Statement:

The Town of Olds acknowledges that public participation, which involves engaging the community in decision-making and problem-solving, can enhance municipal decisions through appropriate stakeholder engagement. It is committed to accessible public participation processes that are respectful, meaningful, accountable, and effective. The Town also ensures transparency by reporting back to the public when information is shared with Council. Additionally, it is dedicated to inclusive and fact-based decision-making that reflects the community's diversity and aligns with available resources.

Purpose:

This policy ensures that the Town of Olds takes a consistent and strategic approach to municipally sponsored public participation while adhering to relevant legislation, including the Municipal Government Act.

Standards:

1. Public participation will involve and include all of those who are affected directly and seek to accommodate diverse needs, backgrounds, and challenges.
2. All public participation activities will be conducted with professionalism and respect.
3. Plans for public participation will provide early, be ongoing, and be using multiple, diverse communications mediums.
4. Promotion of public participation events will be shared in a clear and timely fashion, promoted using Town approved channels.
5. The level of public participation chosen will match Council's engagement strategy.
6. Participants must engage respectfully and constructively. Those who are inappropriate, offensive, or disrespectful may be excluded.

7. The results of public engagement will be shared with Council and stakeholders promptly.
8. A public engagement must be within the Town's ability to finance and resource.
9. This policy is in accordance with Section 216.1 of the Municipal Government Act and will be reviewed once every four (4) years.

Appendix A

Public Participation Spectrum

The Town of Olds public participation policy includes a spectrum of five strategies that follow the Spectrum of Engagement of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). When the Town runs a public participation process, the scope of the engagement and the commitment to stakeholders and the community will be clarified at the beginning of the process.

Public Participation: Engagement Strategies

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