



# Update

JUNE 8, 2016

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY & SFU CIVIC ENGAGE WEBINARS

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LGLA partnered with the SFU Centre for Dialogue to deliver two webinars this spring. Both online offerings addressed the topic of community engagement and over 150 people took part from all over the province – and even from outside BC. LGLA thanks the Civic Engage team members at SFU for sharing their expertise and we will continue to look for similar opportunities to engage local government and First Nations elected officials and senior staff in between our annual Leadership Forums.

### **Beyond the Usual Suspects: How to Reach Diverse Audiences in Public Engagement, March 3, 2016**

This webinar was designed to explore strategies for broadening the reach of public engagement and bringing residents who reflect the full perspectives, knowledge and identities of their communities to the table – rather than just the “same ten people” who typically show up to council meetings. As well, the session addressed barriers that prevent some groups from actively participating in public engagement processes. In total, 69 people registered to attend this free webinar, and 49 of those participated in the session. Comments were positive and a follow-up webinar, also hosted by the Centre for Dialogue, took place at the end of May 2016.

### **From Controversy to Collaboration: Working through Conflict in Public Engagement, May 31, 2016**

This webinar was designed to explore how and when elected officials and senior staff can engage the public in values- and interest-based dialogue to overcome entrenched positions and enable collaboration for solutions that are owned and supported by the community. The session used real-life case studies (one of which was presented by Mayor Josie Osborne of Tofino) and provided participants with tools and methods for convening difficult conversations. A total of 132 people registered for this webinar and 80 people participated from all over the province (with a few from other provinces as well). All three levels of government and both elected and staffs were represented. 86% of attendees stayed over an hour for the Q&A session at the end. 31 people completed the post-webinar evaluation, with 29 indicating they would definitely attend another and the other 2 indicating they would consider it. Comments and feedback were positive.