



First Nations Housing Professionals Association

L'Association des professionnels de
l'habitation des Premières Nations

FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





This three part webinar was delivered by Kelly Francis, FNHP. A summary of the webinar follows:

Employing a collaborative approach to the way we work with people on issues or situations that affect their lives may be seen as unnecessary by some. They may see community engagement as a costly added step when planning a new project or service or altering a policy or program. But we have all been witness to occasions when a segment of a particular community protests loudly against a change or something new, resulting in delays, confusion, frustration, and fractured relationships. Doesn't it make sense to take steps in an attempt to avoid that?

Community engagement is a way for us to build relationships and trust between decision-makers and community members. It empowers people by giving them a voice on decisions that may affect them – it provides them with opportunities to share their thoughts, ideas and comments on proposals for change or development before those things take shape. It gives community members a feeling of “ownership” of the end result. Community engagement is also a way to share information and educate community members. Doesn't it make more sense to share facts and data at the outset rather than allow fiction and rumour to rapidly circulate in the community, taking on a life of its own?

In truth, community engagement is about getting people involved and promoting sustainable decisions. As a bonus, it allows us to capitalize on the old adage that says two heads are better than one. Many First Nations staff have shared that a great idea they acted upon actually originated with a community member. That's a spinoff advantage of the process that just might happen to you.

This 3-part webinar is designed to help housing professionals understand the benefits of engaging with the community, methods of community engagement, and what to do with the information that is gathered during the initiative. Some of the topics covered in the webinar include:

PART 1 – WHY ENGAGE?

- Defining community engagement
- When to consider a community engagement process
- Goals of community engagement
- Key players
- Benefits of community engagement

PART 2 – METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Putting an engagement strategy in place
- Different things we can do to engage
- Managing the expectations of participants





PART 3 – WHAT TO DO WITH THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE GATHERED

- Compiling information
- Implementing your findings
- Evaluating your community engagement activities

WHO SHOULD WATCH?

- Housing managers, housing professionals, and other housing department staff (i.e., all housing staff who may be involved in the development of new projects, services or practices that may benefit from community engagement)
- Housing leadership (i.e., governing authority and/or Council members) responsible for housing may benefit from viewing parts of this webinar to reinforce the benefits of community engagement prior to launch of a new program, service or policy

HOW TO ACCESS THIS WEBINAR

If you are a member of FNHPA you will be able to gain complimentary access to this webinar by going to www.fnhpa.ca. Select the Members Home section in the upper right corner and use the search function and enter “First Nations Housing and Community Engagement Webinar” and it will take you to the webinar in the Knowledge Centre area. Or go to www.fnhpa.ca. Click on News and Events and select this webinar in the Workshops and Webinars area.

Members also have access to other webinars in the members area. Some of the others are:

- First Nations Housing Procurement Practices
- Introduction to Matrimonial Real Property for Housing Managers
- Supporting Successful Tenancy
- Risk Management
- Supporting Successful Tenancy Toolbox

If you are not a member you can email sarah@fnhpa.ca and arrange to pay \$150 for this webinar and you will be given access to this webinar or take out an annual membership for \$150. And your member number will give you access.

