

Martha Kostuch Legacy Workshop



Terms of Reference

Background

Dr. Martha Kostuch worked tirelessly to practice, promote and improve consensus processes in Alberta, particularly as a Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Board member and on many CASA project teams. She was also engaged at the national level, including participation over time on numerous groups of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Dr. Martha Kostuch was instrumental in shaping the consensus-based approach and model.

Many Albertans are now well into their second decade of practicing consensus-based, collaborative, decision-making in multi-stakeholder forums. It is time to provide an opportunity for these Albertans to share what they have learned, compare their experiences, and to discuss the successes and challenges of this effective tool for reaching long lasting robust decisions that everyone can support and implement.

In June 2008, the CASA board approved a statement of opportunity to organize a workshop in recognition of the many contributions of Dr. Martha Kostuch to consensus-based approaches.

Goal and Scope

The overall goal for the project team will be to further Dr. Kostuch's consensus decision-making legacy and work in a concrete and significant way. This goal will be achieved through the objectives stated below.

In terms of scope, a two-day event is envisioned to allow a larger audience (notionally up to 250 people) to

Day One

- explore overall decision-making processes with a focus on the use of the consensus process
- honour Martha's memory
- this could include a conference format of presentations and Quash

Day Two

- have a smaller workshop of 50-75 people with consensus experience to deliver a more tangible outcome

Training or education in consensus process for newcomers will be out-of-scope for the workshop (that is one of the goals of the AAMS Certificate).

The audience would be people with consensus decision-making experience who wish to enhance and contribute their existing skills.

Objectives and Key Tasks

The project team will go beyond the delivery of a workshop by also developing a tool that can be used into the future to aid consensus practitioners and participants.

The objectives and the associated tasks for the project team are:

1. Design and deliver a conference workshop
 - Logistics.
 - Speakers.
 - Develop the agenda for each day taking into account the different objectives of each.
 - Develop a list of target audiences for the conference and the workshop recognizing the different objectives.
 - Develop a process for how the audience will be invited/selected.
 - Conduct evaluation: both of the conference/workshop itself and against the Terms of Reference. This evaluation could be an opportunity to conduct a questionnaire as an additional input to the value-added document. (see point # 2 for description)
 - Develop a work plan, schedule, budget and accountabilities.
 - Secure funding, if required.
 - Provide conference report/proceedings that can be used as a resource by people that are broadly interested in the use of the consensus model.
2. Develop a value-added tool
 - Develop a value-added document that will further consensus decision-making in the province. (e.g. a screening tool to assess the use of the consensus process as the decision model for proposals)
3. Determine the need for ongoing activity in future years. In particular, is there a need for a network among participants?
 - Conduct an assessment of the need for ongoing activity, in particular regarding networking among practitioners and participants. The assessment should consider the objectives of the network, the appropriate mechanism for the network and maintenance of the network.
 - Assess the demand for and options for supporting a network.
4. Provide a report and recommendations to the CASA board, as appropriate. This report would summarize the team's learnings from the actions above.

Timelines

The project team should explore the possibility of holding the workshop in April. To that end, preliminary meetings should take place in November to discuss and secure venue, speakers and dates.

The final report to the CASA board is expected September 2009.

Budget:

Alberta Environment allocated \$35,000 to this project. The team will fundraise, if required.

Membership

Ideally 6-12 team members:

- 2 from each sector
- At least one representative from another consensus organization (e.g. CEMA, Water Council, airsheds)
- First Nations and Métis
- CASA should be considered a stakeholder in this project