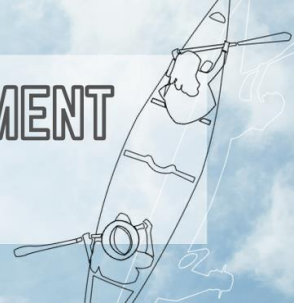


NAVIGATING THE LAW TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

AMPLIFYING VOICES: GETTING INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

March 2021



Introduction: The following questions and sample answers have been provided to help facilitate discussions about public participation in Canadian environmental decision-making processes and the need for environmental justice advocacy promoting the development of more sustainable laws and policies.

1) What is the role of the public in environmental decision-making processes?

- The role of the public in environmental decision-making processes can vary depending on the type of process, the laws and policies from which that process originates, and the resources available to support public participation.
- This includes the opportunity to participate in a public hearing as an intervenor, making a public presentation to the responsible decision-maker, and providing written input.

2) Why should you participate in environmental decision-making processes?

- The inclusion of meaningful public participation opportunities in environmental decision-making processes ensures local concerns, values and context are considered before a final decision is made.
- Public participation can influence the outcome of environmental decisions and can result in, for example, stopping a problematic natural resource development from getting approved.
- Including the public in environmental decision-making processes gives people with a range of different perspectives the opportunity to learn from each other.
- In some situations, participation in a decision-making process is required before you can challenge the final decision at a later date.

3) What kind of participation opportunities are available to you in Manitoba?

- In Manitoba, there are a range of different participation opportunities available to the public at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels. This includes opportunities to participate in public hearings held by different administrative tribunals such as the Clean Environment Commission and the Manitoba Public Utilities Board.

4) How should you prepare for a public participation opportunity?

- Learn about the process you want to participate in and the type of participation opportunities available to you as early as possible. This includes identifying any available funding to support your participation.
- Identify the key issues you want to provide input on.
- Find experts and evidence that support your key issues.
- Collaborate with other organizations and individuals that share your concerns.
- Review any written submissions for mistakes and practice in advance if you are making a presentation.

For more information see:

- [Amplifying Voices: Getting Involved in Environmental Decisions](#) (webinar)
- [Amplifying Voices: Additional Resources](#)
- [Amplifying Voices: Additional Questions](#)



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