

When Citizens Decide: the Challenges of Large Scale Public Engagement

Preliminary Schedule

Thursday May 1, 2008

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| 8:30-9:15 | Coffee |
| 9:15-9:30 | Welcome |
| 9:30-11:00 | Session 1
<i>Leadership in the Assemblies</i>

Round Table with the Assembly Chairs: Jack Blaney (BC), George Thomson (Ontario), Jacobine Geel (Netherlands) |
| 11:00-11:15 | Break |
| 11:15-12:45 | Session 2
<i>Three Citizens' Assemblies: What worked & what didn't</i>

Jonathan Rose , Queen's University
"The Story of Three Assemblies"
Ken Carty , University of British Columbia
"How did preferences emerge and evolve?"
Andre Blais , University of Montreal
"Did the participants decide by themselves?" |
| 12:45-2:00 | Lunch |
| 2:00-3:30 | Session 3
<i>The Contribution of the Citizens' Assemblies</i>

Patrick Fournier , University of Montreal
"Did they make the right decisions?"
Henk Van der Kolk , University of Twente
"Did the participants become better citizens?"
Fred Cutler , University of British Columbia
"Did the Citizens' Assemblies affect public opinion in BC and Ontario?" |
| 3:30-3:45 | Break |
| 3:45-5:15 | Session 4
<i>Large Scale Public Engagement: problems & prospects</i>

John Gastil , University of Washington-Seattle
"When should a government convene a Citizens' Assembly?" |

Matt Leighninger, Deliberative Democracy Consortium
 “How does the Citizens’ Assembly compare to other processes for citizen engagement?”
Edward Andersson, Involve UK
 “Connecting citizen engagement processes with representative institutions”

5:30-7:30 Reception and Book Launch for **Mark Warren & Hilary Pearse’s**
Designing Deliberative Democracy

Friday May 2, 2008

8:30-9:15 Coffee

9:15-10:45 **Session 4**
From mini-public to public sphere
Mary-Lynn Young & Stephen Ward, University of British Columbia
 “How should we communicate mini-public decisions to the macro-public?”
Amy Lang, University of British Columbia
 “Media coverage in the BC and Ontario referendums”
Susanna Haas Lyons, AmericaSpeaks
 “Leveraging the media to accelerate public engagement outcomes”

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 **Session 5**
How well does the Citizens’ Assembly model travel to other policy issues?

Mary Pat McKinnon, University of Ottawa
 “Citizens’ Assemblies and Climate Change”
Julia Abelson, McMaster University
 “Citizens’ Assemblies and Healthcare”
Ned Crosby, The Jefferson Center
 “The Citizens’ Initiative Review: Assemblies on Ballot Initiatives”

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 **Discussion: Choosing the Right Tool for the Job**

Chair: Gordon Gibson, The Fraser Institute