

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

# **CITIZENS GUIDE to PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

[Engage.modl.ca](http://Engage.modl.ca)

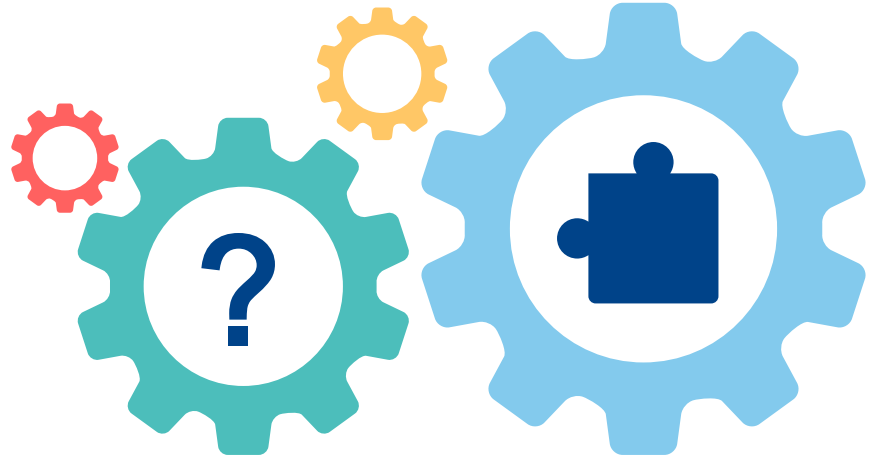


# WHAT IS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT?

Public engagement is a way of gathering input from citizens about community issues. It helps the Municipality make the best decisions for the community.

## Public engagement:

- Invites you to participate in decision-making
- Offers you a chance to share concerns and ideas
- Can be online, such as surveys or polls, or shared information
- Can be a face-to-face coffee chat, community meeting, open house, or other event



**Our community is a better place when citizens are engaged.**

# WE ARE LISTENING

The Municipality is a community of communities designed to serve you—the people who live and work here. Our goal is to listen, share ideas, and work with you.

## We strive to:

- Communicate using the right method and clear language
- Listen to everyone's issues, ideas and concerns
- Offer ways for citizens to inform public policy

## Every time we ask for input we will make sure that:

- You are involved as early as possible
- Everyone has a chance to participate
- Everyone is treated with respect



# HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You can participate as a citizen and/or as a community group. Community groups include businesses, special interest groups, and community associations. Both citizens and community groups have an important role in public engagement activities.

## Citizen roles:

- Listen to other people’s ideas and information
- Understand balancing of interests and trade-offs involved in policy issues
- Share community issues, needs, and priorities
- Bring a unique point of view and unique ideas
- Provide local knowledge Council may not have

## Community group roles:

- Represent a wider range of citizens
- Advise on community priorities
- Use networks and communication tools to share public engagement information, events, and results
- Help give context to some issues

## Some ways you can participate include:

### ONLINE

- Engage.modl.ca
- Facebook page
- Direct email

### IN PERSON

- Feedback forms
- Polls or surveys
- Focus groups
- Open houses or workshops
- Public hearings
- Steering Committees

### THROUGH COUNCILLOR

- Elections—use your vote
- Email or call
- Council meeting presentations

# ENGAGEMENT ANYWHERE!

Visit [engage.modl.ca](http://engage.modl.ca) anytime to view new and ongoing projects, and have your say.

**All public engagement opportunities are advertised, as follows.**

## ONLINE

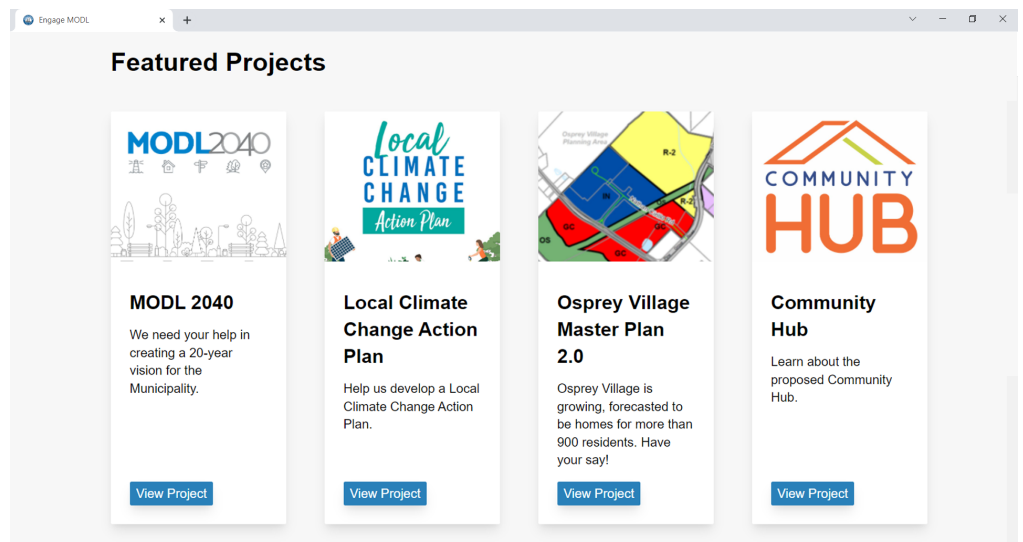
[Engage.modl.ca](http://Engage.modl.ca)

## MEDIA

Newspaper and radio ads

## FACEBOOK PAGE

[facebook.com/MODLns](https://facebook.com/MODLns)



# WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

You know your community best! Citizen participation lets Council know what matters most to your community—it helps build a better community. As a citizen, you can:

Understand other citizen's concerns or ideas

Give Council a deeper understanding of the issue

Identify local needs, priorities and assets

Share your personal ideas and opinions

Get a better idea of how decisions are made

Shape the future of your community

# HOW WILL MY INPUT BE USED?

## Your input and feedback is always welcome!

In some cases, the Municipality is required by law to seek input. Even where input is required, the final decision will always rest with Council.

Council uses public input to make the best decision possible. That may not always be the decision that you or your community group had hoped for.

Information on decisions and how public input was used can be found online at [Engage.modl.ca](http://Engage.modl.ca), or through your Councillor. Municipal staff may also use the Facebook page and community group contacts to let the public know when engagement reports are posted.

## Remember that:

- Sometimes your input addresses only a part of a decision
- Sometimes other (possibly larger) parts may have already been decided
- Municipalities must consider what is good for all—the best possible decision

# DON'T SEE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TOPIC YOU'RE INTERESTED IN?

First, ask your Councillor to see if a public engagement opportunity exists. If it doesn't, you may need to bring it to Council.

## You may:

- Attend the public input portion of an upcoming Council meeting
- Attend a Policy & Strategy Committee meeting
- Attend a Finance meeting
- Make a presentation at one of these meetings as a community group

