



# **Meaningful Consultation**

**a delegation to the  
Town of Qualicum Beach Council  
February 2, 2015  
By Kevin Monahan**



This is not

# Meaningful Consultation





**There can be no more devastating criticism levelled against a consultation process than the complaint;**

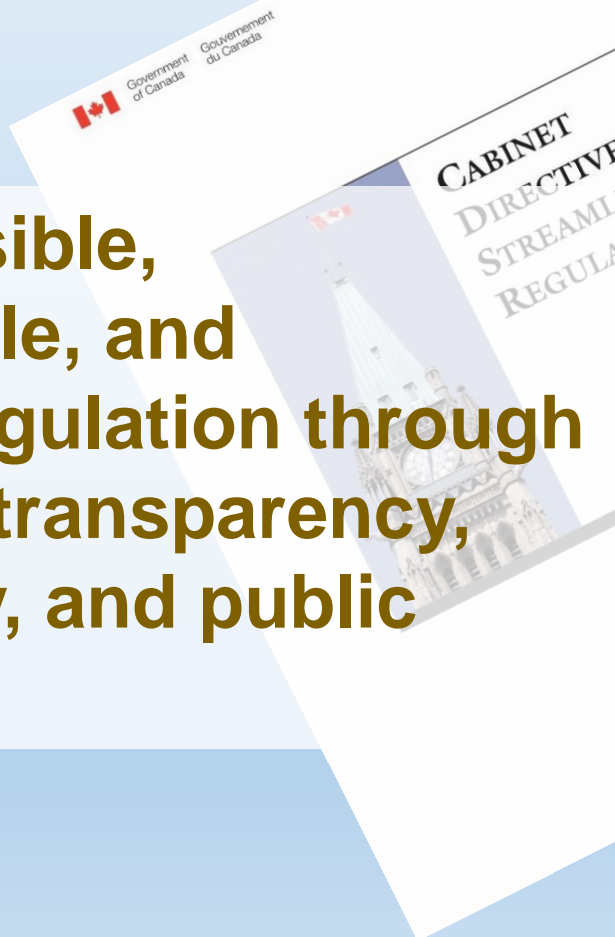
**“Nothing I did made the slightest difference!”**

***Enhancing Public Consultation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***



# Cabinet Directive on Regulatory Management

Create accessible,  
understandable, and  
responsive regulation through  
engagement, transparency,  
accountability, and public  
scrutiny;



Treasury Board of Canada  
Secrétariat

Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor  
du Canada

Canada

## Cabinet Directive on Regulatory Management

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Catalogue No.

ISBN

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**“At its heart, meaningful consultation is about interactive, two-way communication and dialogue. “Such consultation is undertaken to seek information, advice and/or informed opinion for consideration prior to decision making.”**



Supporting  
**Meaningful  
Consultation  
with Parents**

2008

British Columbia Council of  
Administrators of Special Education (BC CASE)



# **What is Meaningful Consultation?**

**Consultation that is not “meaningful consultation” is not actually consultation at all. “Meaningful consultation” reflects the following fundamental principles:**

- Two-way meaningful dialogue
- Stakeholders have a realistic opportunity to affect outcomes
- Takes place prior to decision-making
- Obligation to ensure all points of view are represented.



# What is Meaningful Consultation?

- Stakeholders are as varied as the issues.
- Consultation is inclusive not exclusive
- Environment of respect
- May be about “big ideas” or specific proposals
- Iterative process
- Not simply the provision of information
- Clearly identify problem or issue
- Demonstrate that proposal is the best solution





# What is Meaningful Consultation?

- Evidence-based
- Opportunity to challenge assumptions on which proposals are based
- Forms of input should not be limited
- Conducted by government or its agents
- Well documented
- Consensus-based results
- Many mechanisms going by different names ( ie. deliberative democracy, open space technology)





# Why Consult?

- Deeply rooted in democratic tradition
- Takes the “temperature” of the community
- Ground-truth assumptions
- Test alternate scenarios
- Is there a “better mousetrap”
- Consensus-based results demonstrate credibility and accountability
- Stakeholders become “invested”



<http://zerowait-state.com/better-mousetrap-agile-plm/>



# THE END

- ## • Enhancing Public Consultation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

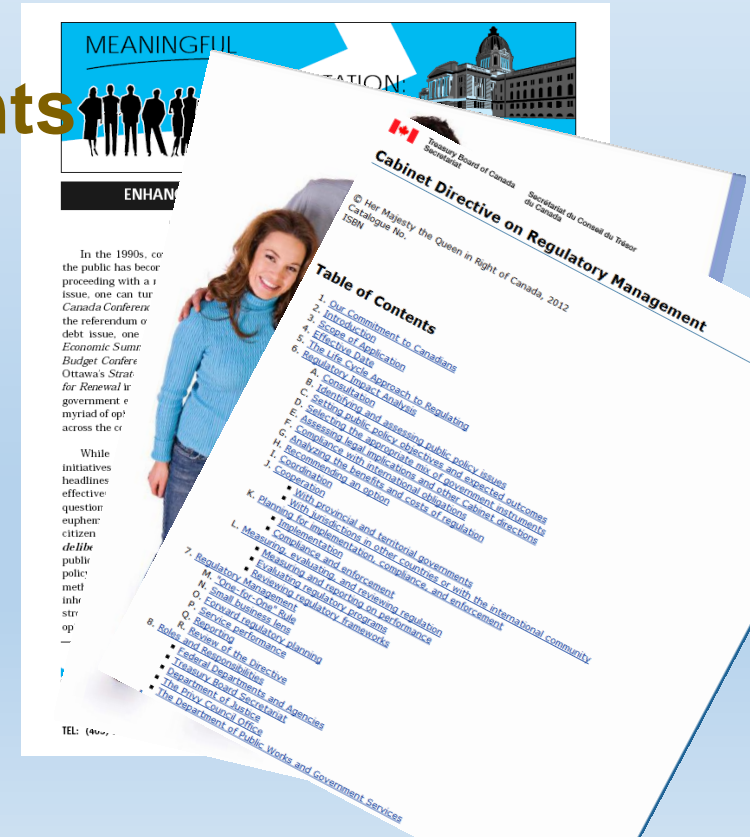
[www.cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/September1997-Enhancing-Public-Consultation-in-the-21st-Century.pdf](http://www.cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/September1997-Enhancing-Public-Consultation-in-the-21st-Century.pdf)

- **Supporting Meaningful Consultation with Parents**

[sd41.bc.ca/learning\\_support/pdf/meaningfulConsultation.pdf](https://sd41.bc.ca/learning_support/pdf/meaningfulConsultation.pdf)

- **Cabinet Directive on Regulatory Management**

[www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rtrap-parfa/cdrm-dcgr/cdrm-dcgrtb-eng.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rtrap-parfa/cdrm-dcgr/cdrm-dcgrtb-eng.asp)





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