



Canadian Federation For Citizenship  
Fédération Canadienne Pour La Citoyenneté

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



Citizens' Participation And  
Civil Society Engagement  
Are Prerequisite To The  
Development Of Sustainable  
Human Settlements.



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Forward looking  
inclusion policies can  
strengthen the merit  
of responsible  
citizenship.

**We are a non-partisan, non-sectarian and  
non-profit organization.**

**We work to promote inclusive citizenship  
to develop and advance homegrown  
leadership.**

**CFC advocates for forward looking  
inclusion policies to support pluralism  
and defend basic human rights.**

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**Governments have long recognized the importance of citizens' participation in making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.**

**This people-centred approach has been used in the United Nations Safe Cities Initiative where six Canadian cities participated.**

**Two of these cities were Winnipeg and Calgary.**



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**Winnipeg signed on to the UN safe cities and safe public spaces global program in 2013 in response to MMIWG**

**The city created steering committees with representatives from both levels of government and various organizations.**

**They held focus groups with diverse populations and created partnerships with indigenous led groups and post secondary students' associations on campus.**



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**The police services was involved in data collection and investments were made in public service advertisements and social media campaigns.**

**Culturally sensitive resources and educational materials on transportation safety were created for vulnerable groups of women.**

**Workshops were held for men. The city formed a citizen equity committee to lead on education and advocacy.**



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**These efforts led to contributions at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls for Justice for the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.**

**It became evident that citizens' participation was essential to the management processes.**



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**Calgary conducted a public opinion survey in response to street harassment in 2022.**

**Data showed that citizens from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community were more likely to have personally experienced street harassment and/or witnessed it.**

**They were less likely to agree they would know what to say or do if they experienced street harassment**



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**Citizens who identified as racialized or Indigenous persons were less likely to believe that unwanted comments about one's gender or religion should always be considered harassment.**

**They were more likely to think unwanted comments about a person's gender is 'sometimes' harassment.**

**It was clear that street harassment was disproportionately experienced by women, racialized or Indigenous persons.**



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**It was also evident that street harassment was disproportionately experienced by people who wore clothing or symbols that showed their religion, and citizens of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.**

**It was discovered that some citizens, particularly women, often avoided certain activities specifically to reduce the chances of experiencing street harassment because it impacted them.**



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**Engaging citizens was necessary to the planning processes to make the city safe and inclusive for them.**



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**Citizens' Participation And Civil Society Engagement Are Prerequisites To The Development of Sustainable Human Settlements**

## **Case Scenario**

**The proposal is to build an Adult Mental Health Centre for Indigenous Women. The site for this project is next to a public school that is primarily attended by new immigrant children that are transported from different areas of the City (the children and their families do not live in the area). The area is an established neighbourhood with a majority of residents being older couples whose grown children have moved out of the house, families with children attending private and/or catholic schools, and renters who prefer to live in an established area that offers amenities that new areas take time to build.**

**Feedback is being collected from three groups of stakeholders:**

- 1. School – Administrators, educators and parents**
- 2. Area Residents – Seniors, families, property owners and renters**
- 3. Mental Health Centre – Service Users and Provide**



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Thank You