

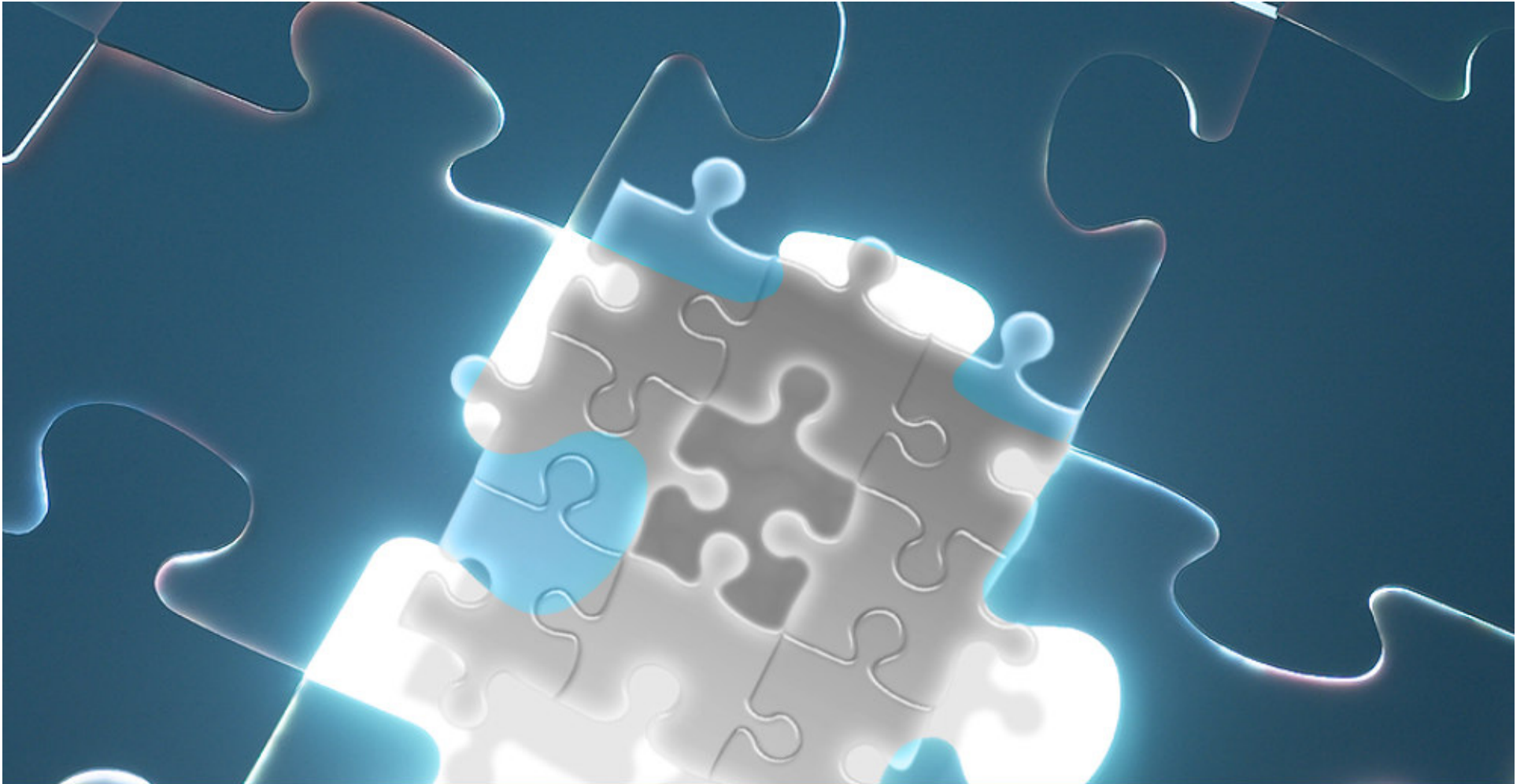
# **Facilitating Public Dialogue and Partnerships**

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# Session Overview

- Innovative strategies to sustainable partnerships
- Strategies to effectively facilitate engagement processes with youth
- Innovations in community engagement and public dialogue processes
- Supporting First Nations communities and organizations
- Applying the strategies to youth/youth serving organizations



# **INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS**



# So what is a partnership?





- **Think of a partnership in which you have been involved that fostered continued commitment, participation and enthusiasm. What were the key elements to this partnership?**



- **Think of a partnership in which you were involved that you:**
  - **Found excuses not to attend or participate**
  - **Lost interest quickly**
  - **Did not feel valued as a partner**
- **In comparing these two experiences, what are the two key differences?**



# T.O.B.Y

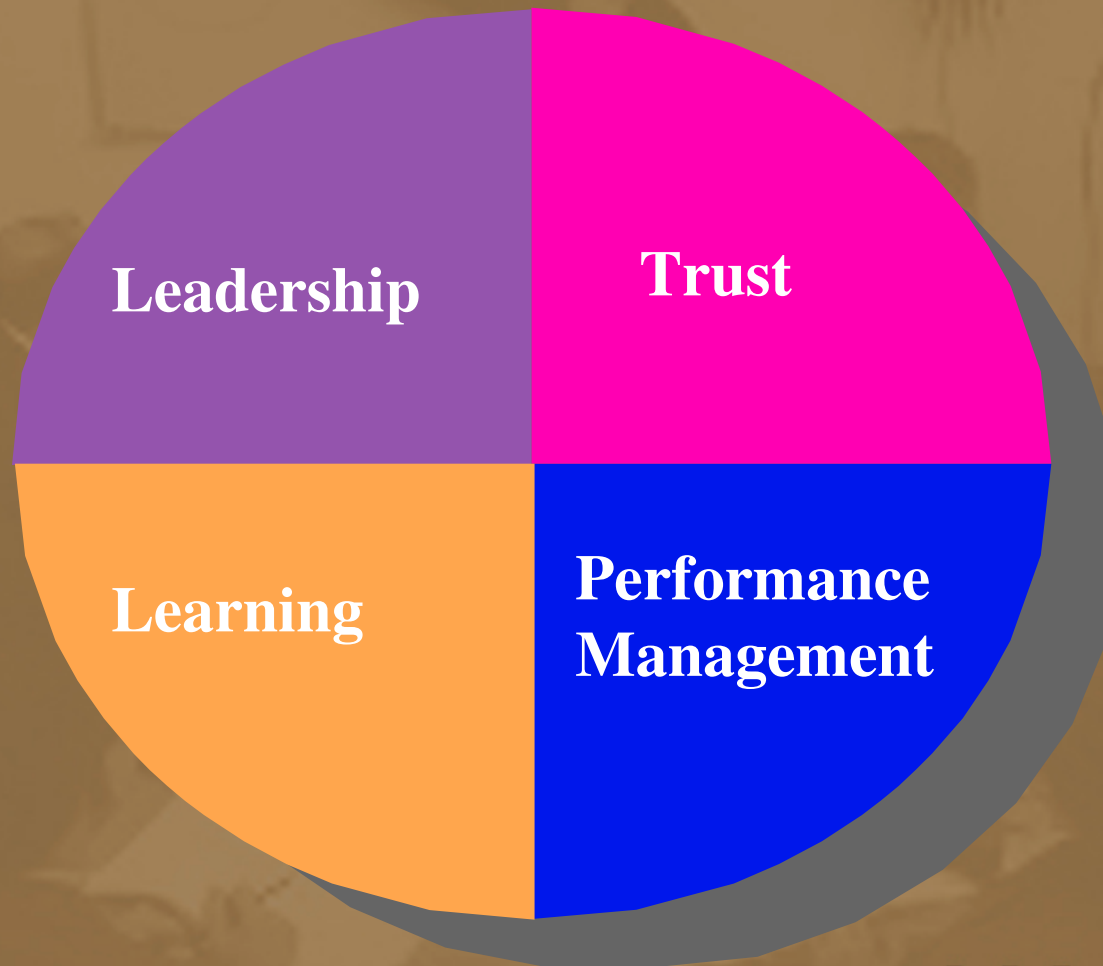
- Frank and Smith (1997) state that it is critical to a partnership's success to have clear defined principles. Their approach is a foundational statement called the **TOBY** Principle:



## T.O.B.Y.

- Together we can make a difference by focussing on outcomes (not just process) and remain blameless of others, as we are oriented towards YES.

# The Glue of a Partnership



Adapted from  
Smarter  
Partnerships



**HAMMOND**  
MEDIATION & CONSULTING GROUP INC.



Let's take a look at each piece of the pie!

**LEADERSHIP** – A shared vision,  
mutually  
understood

**TRUST** – The critical element to any  
partnership



**LEARNING** – Determine what went well;  
what

could have been done differently

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT** –

Includes

realistic goals, measurement criteria and  
evaluation



## Stage 1:

- Envision results by working individual to individual (bring people together, work through the building of trust, create a common language, focus, vision and a feeling of comfort in the partnering relationship).



## Stage 2:

- Empower one another by working individual to organization (confirm and clarify roles, define authority, deal with issues and challenges as they surface, organize efforts, share resources/talents, establish reporting and communicating mechanism)



## Stage 3:

- Ensure success by working organization to organization



**STRATEGIES TO EFFECTIVELY  
FACILITATE ENGAGEMENT  
PROCESSES WITH YOUTH**

**PROCESSES WITH YOUTH**



# Strategies to Engage Youth in Partnerships

- Invite the next generation to contribute
- Market the activity or initiative so that it attracts audiences of all ages - WIIFM
- Identify the best means on how to communicate with this particular demographic
- Look for youth leaders in other organizations who are prepared to promote or participate in your initiative



## An example:

- A community wants to bolster interest in attracting new residents, retaining existing residents, and attracting services for its vision of an ever-expanding centre
- In establishing focus groups, an important group to speak with were students living in the community
- This group, more than any other, had ideas about what was important to them and what would encourage them to raise their families in the community in the future



## **Had this group not been invited to participate...**

...the interest in change would have been far less significant

- Youth were currently accessing many of the services in the community
- They had ideas about what was lacking; what needed to be improved and/or enhanced
- They were not hesitant to answer the question, "What if..."



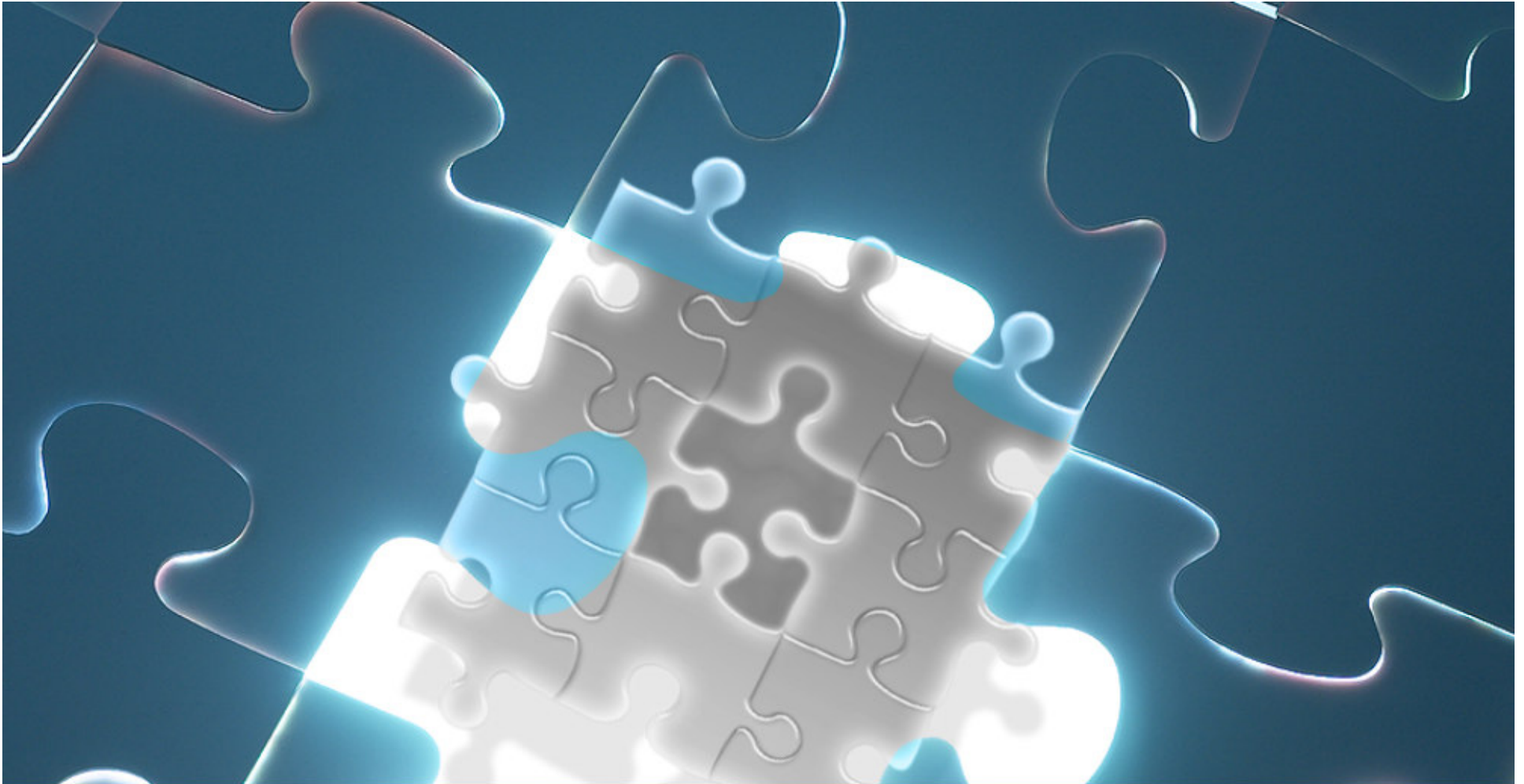
**...with any vision of tomorrow**

- It is imperative that youth be recruited to offer their perspective
- The challenge may be where do we find individuals that are prepared to make a commitment
- Once again, go back to WIIFM
- This will be your premise to not only attract their involvement but to retain their commitment



# ...from youth to youth...

- **I HAD TO CHECK WITH MY SONS ON THIS ONE!**
- ✓ **“WHO”** do we need on this project, compare networks
- ✓ **“WHAT”** needs to be done
- ✓ **“WHERE”** can we make a difference
- ✓ **“WHEN”** do we step up – **NOW!!**
- ✓ Determine **“WHY”** we need to get involved i.e. purpose, WIIFM
- ✓ Determine **“HOW”** we can contribute i.e. what are my talents



**INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC  
DIALOGUE PROCESSES**



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- What is it?

***Public engagement is any process that involves the public in problem-solving or decision-making and uses public input to make better decisions.***





## **What does the public care about?**

### **IMPACTS OR PERCEIVED IMPACTS:**

- Livelihood/employment
- Property values
- Local economic vitality
- Threats to cultural, racial or gender identity
- Health & safety of family members/loved ones
- Endangered environmental resources
- Traffic, etc.



# To begin your process...

...Identify the core values associated with your practice:

1. The public should have a say in decisions about actions that affect their lives
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision
3. The process communicates the interests and meets the process needs of all participants



# Craft your objectives

- This is a key activity
- It will provide the guideposts for your program/initiative
- Examples may include such things as:
  - Identify a course of action
  - Prioritize where your efforts will be most beneficial
  - Establish a corporate/initiative data base
  - Identify and exploit opportunities for building internal capacity



## What about accountability?

Once again, consider these examples:

- Principles will be widely known and understood
- All staff involved will receive appropriate training
- Engagement activities will be fair, consistent and timely

**IDENTIFY WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE  
AND WITHIN WHAT TIME FRAME**



# What are your deliverables?

May include such things as:

- Endorsed guiding principles
- Internal change management
- Internal support
- Involving stakeholders, etc.



# Values:

1. People directly affected by decisions should participate in those decisions
2. Provides a means for incorporating public values into decisions that affect their lives
3. Allows the public the means to provide meaningful input into the decision being made  
continued



## Values continued...

4. The process seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected
5. The process involves participants in how they participate
6. The process communicates to participants how their input affected the decision
7. And finally, the process provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.



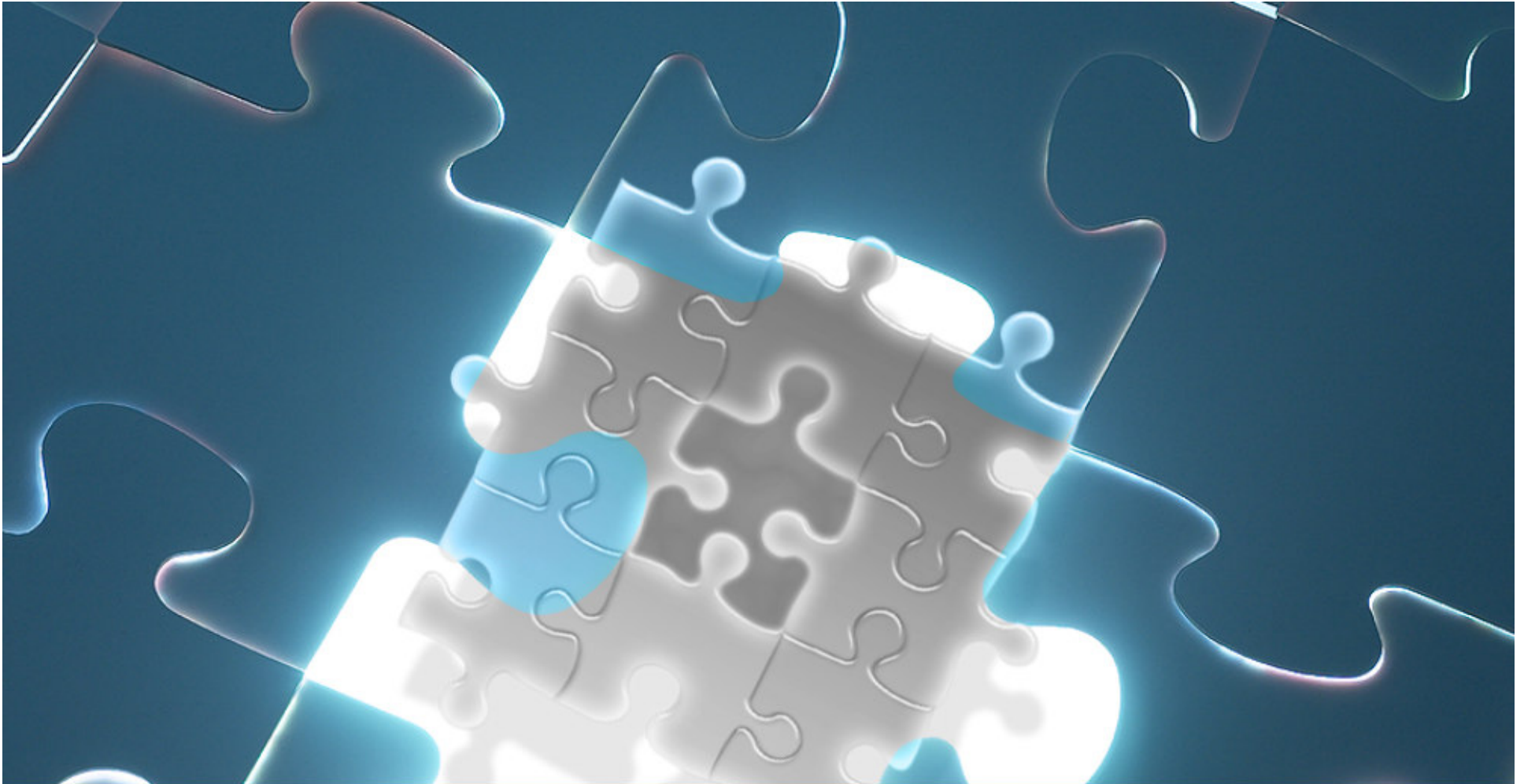
# BENEFITS:

## Good public participation:

- Results in improved problem definition
- Makes the decision-maker's job easier – not harder
- Improves the quality of the decision
- Saves \$\$ and time by allowing good projects to move forward
- Facilitates understanding
- Brings stakeholders together to focus on issues

***Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember.  
Involve me, I understand.***

CHINESE PROVERB



**SUPPORTING FIRST  
NATIONS COMMUNITIES  
AND ORGANIZATIONS**



# FIRST NATIONS

- Whether group, community or organization:
  - Have a sense of betrayal
  - Are cautious about our motivation to work with them
  - Express frustration with lack of follow-through
  - Decisions about First Nations taken by others
  - Respect their leadership
  - Practice active listening
  - Seek their input about changes desired/required



# Public participation may look the same...

But there are nuances that should not be ignored:

- Find out in advance names, titles of leadership
- Meet on their terms
- Demonstrate respect for all but particularly for Elders
- Bring gifts for elders
- Time needs to be convenient for community, group or organization



**Most importantly...**

**Do your homework!**



# First Nations

What are some of the common factors?



## In closing...

Public participation is a spectrum. What is it

that your group wants to achieve?

- INFORM
- CONSULT
- INVOLVE
- COLLABORATE
- EMPOWER