

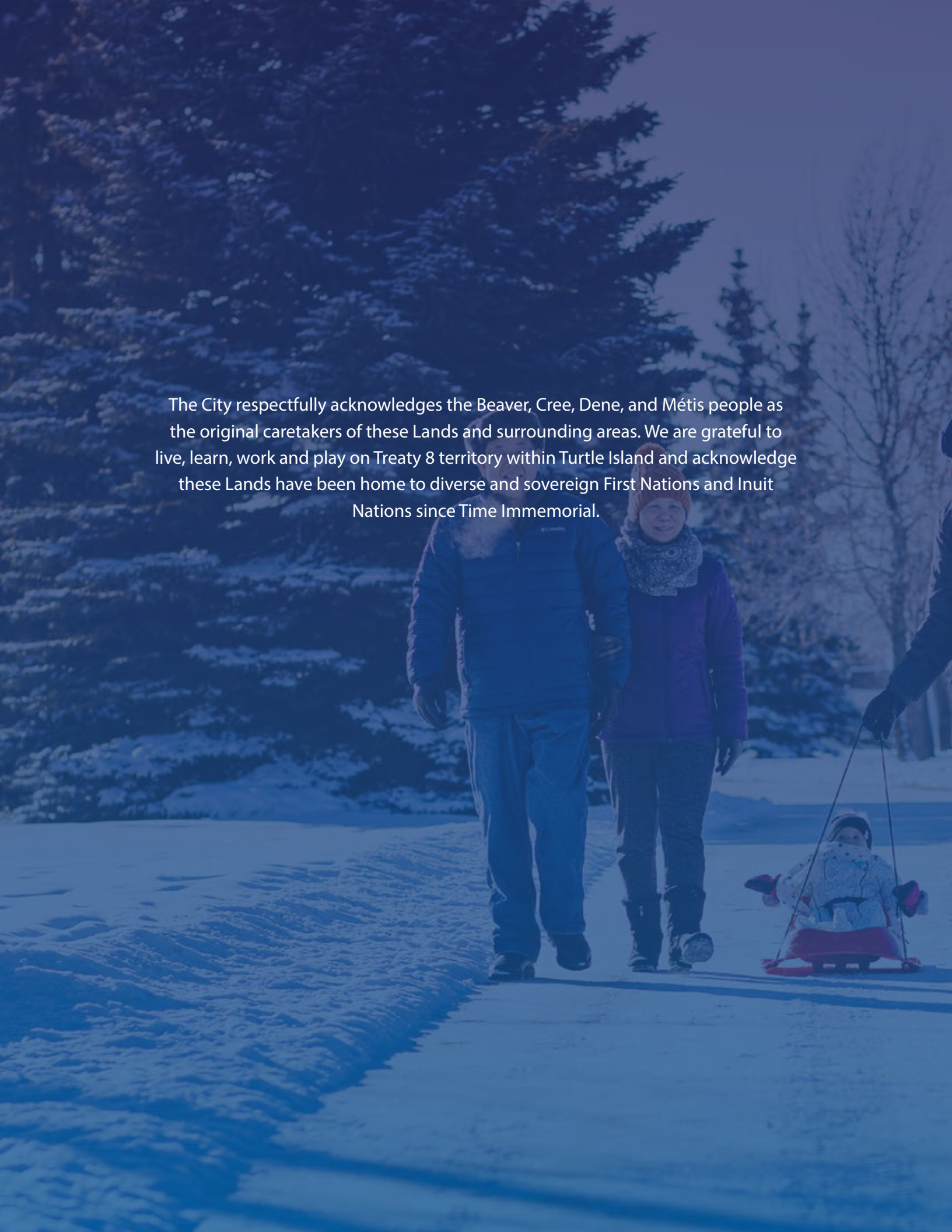
THE CITY OF

GRANDE
prairie



Public Engagement Framework

April 2024



The City respectfully acknowledges the Beaver, Cree, Dene, and Métis people as the original caretakers of these Lands and surrounding areas. We are grateful to live, learn, work and play on Treaty 8 territory within Turtle Island and acknowledge these Lands have been home to diverse and sovereign First Nations and Inuit Nations since Time Immemorial.



What is public engagement?

04

Why public engagement?

06

General Principles

07

Who is involved in public engagement?

08

When do we use public engagement?

08

How is public engagement carried out?

09

The Public Engagement Spectrum

10





What is **public engagement**?



Public engagement is about connecting with residents and involving them in problem-solving or decision making to gather their input to make sustainable decisions.

Public engagement provides opportunities for residents to share their thoughts and feedback and for City Council to hear different perspectives to help them make informed decisions.

To encourage meaningful public engagement, the International Association for Public Participation says that when the City is making a decision we should:

- 01**  Involve residents who will be affected.
- 02**  Ensure the public’s contribution will influence the decision.
- 03**  Ensure sustainable decisions are made by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- 04**  Involve people affected by or interested in a decision.
- 05**  Ask participants how they would like to participate.
- 06**  Provide participants with the information they need to participate.
- 07**  Communicate to participants how their input affected the decision.

These objectives can be achieved in many ways. In some cases, public engagement requires a higher level of planning and participation. In other situations, sharing information may be all that is needed.



Why public engagement?

Local governments affect all residents daily in numerous ways. By providing programs, services, infrastructure and facilities, local government is the basis for much of the activity in the community.

They are the closest level of government to the people they represent. That means they are best positioned to enable residents to participate in decision-making and problem-solving.

Engaging with the public is a key value of City Council, which aims to create purposeful relationships that build a strong, connected community.

Why is it important?

Effective public engagement facilitates understanding and encourages the public to provide meaningful input into the decision-making process. This brings many benefits such as:

- Keeps residents informed about what is happening in their community.
- Raises awareness about City decision-making processes and how it works.
- Gathers input from various community groups and diverse perspectives.
- Creates new ideas or solutions that may have not been explored.
- Allows Council and City staff to connect with residents about topics that are important to them.
- Ensures that input is received from all voices to help inform the decision.
- Increases trust in local government.



General Principles

The City of Grande Prairie recognizes and follows the general principles when conducting public engagement:

- Involve those who will be affected such as the public, stakeholders, community groups and the Indigenous community.
- Ensure processes are well designed, open, inclusive and respectful.
- Provide timely and valuable information on how to participate.
- Provide transparency on how public input will influence decision making.
- Address how feedback will be compiled and analyzed.
- Encourage opportunities for Council participation at Public Engagement events.
- Identify how to include the local and traditional culture of Indigenous People.
- Address barriers to provide equitable and inclusive accessibility.

In addition to these general principles, the City promises to:

- Have reliable information that is readily available to the residents of Grande Prairie.
- Ensure processes are well designed, open, inclusive and respectful.
- Exchange views, and through discussion, create learning opportunities for Council, staff and residents.
- Operate in an accountable and transparent manner.
- Listen to and respect the voice of residents and ensure each concern receives a response.
- Guarantee there is a real opportunity to influence policy outcome.
- Provide our staff with the necessary training and tools to host considered, informative and responsive engagement activities.



Who is involved in public engagement?

The City actively involves and engages with members of the community throughout the engagement process.

In most circumstances, engagements may require discussions with select stakeholders, which are individuals or groups of individuals of an organization with an interest in the outcome of a decision. Internal stakeholders may also be engaged and include individuals who work for or with the decision-making organization.

Stakeholders can be identified by determining which individuals or groups will be affected by a problem or opportunity being addressed.


When do we use public engagement?

Public engagement is required when residents' quality of life is affected, legislation requires it or when City management or City Council requests it.

Public engagement is not required when the decision has already been made.

How is public engagement **carried out**?

City of Grande Prairie staff will follow this process when implementing an engagement plan:

01		Evaluate the purpose of the engagement.
02		Define objectives and identify the level of engagement.
03		Identify those with a stake in the process.
04		Select the scope, size and sample.
05		Review the time and cost factors.
06		Select the appropriate engagement tools.
07		Provide Council with information about the engagement.
08		Promote engagement opportunities and grow public participation.
09		Implement the public engagement opportunities.
10		Analyze the results.
11		Report back results to Council and share with participants.

Spectrum of Public Participation

	01 inform	02 consult	03 involve	04 collaborate	05 empower
Public Engagement Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decision to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing through engage platform • Public information sessions • Awareness campaigns • Information kiosks • Newsletters/mailouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open houses/Town halls • Webinars • Focus groups • Stakeholder interviews • Surveys • Feedback forms • Public hearings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committees • Participatory decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegated decision • Referendums

Modeled by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

Increasing Level of Public Impact



THE CITY OF
GRANDE
prairie

THE CITY OF
GRANDE
prairie

