

Women in Public Policy

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Questionnaire

The Women in Public Policy initiative started as a research project in Nova Scotia involving 126 women involved in trying to make public policy changes. The second phase of WIPP was a national workshop involving over 100 community-based women, researchers and government employees working toward the same end. We are now seeking to evaluate how our efforts to affect public policy (1) are being assisted by *Steps Toward a Credible and Inclusive Public Policy Process*, and (2) are affecting our organizations. We would greatly appreciate it if your responses to any of the following questions could be put in the mail or faxed to us by **December 9, 2002**.

Organizational profile

In order to help us situate the information you provide, please could you tell us:

- The size of your group/organization _____
- The constituency that your group represents _____
- The main activities of your group/organization's work
 - Advocacy Research Program delivery Government service
 - Other _____
- The policy area(s) most frequently worked on
 - health social services justice Other _____
- Your location re: rural or urban (circle one)
- The province you are located in _____
- In the report on the findings from this questionnaire we would like to list the organizations/groups/departments that participated. If you'd like to be included in this list, please provide your group/organization/department name:

Part 1

The following questions ask how and if the *Steps Toward a Credible and Inclusive Public Policy Process* document has had an impact on your policy-related work in any way:

1. Were you involved in contributing to the development of the *Steps* document (through the initial research that resulted in the report: "*Never Give Up*" *Women Making Policy Change*, the national *Sharing our Strengths* workshop held in Halifax in October 1999, and/or WIPP committees)?
 - Yes No
2. Do you have a copy of the *Steps* document?
 - Yes. If so, through what source did you receive it?
 - No
3. Have you made use of the *Steps* document in any way?
 - Yes No
 - If yes, please explain:
 - a. For what purposes have you used *Steps*?

 - b. What aspects are useful, and in relation to which situations/activities?

- c. Have you found that any sections or aspects of the document met any of your needs, was helpful regarding a policy-related initiative? Please describe how.

- d. Has the *Steps* document had any impact on your group's ability/capacity to intervene in the public policy process (for example, increasing inclusive input or in accessing policy decision-makers)? Please provide examples.

- e. How has the *Steps* document affected your group's approach to influencing policy?

- f. In what unintended ways have you found *Steps* to be useful?

- g. Have you found any other avenues, tools, initiatives that have been effective in affecting public policy? Please describe.

Part 2

- 4. If you have not made use of the document, please explain
 - a. what aspects of the document make it unsuited or not applicable to your work, needs, community initiatives, the issues you work on, etc.

 - b. What are some of the barriers to making use of such a tool?

- 5. In what ways do you think *Steps* could be changed to be more suitable for use?

6. Is a guide or resource covering different information needed? Please explain.

7. What else is needed to increase the uptake of community-based input into public policy development?

8. Have you encountered any situations in which the *Steps* document has been used as a self-assessment tool for government policymakers and their public engagement processes? Please explain.

9. What do you think are the existing barriers and obstacles to community-based knowledge becoming a key ingredient in public policy development?

Part 3

The following questions ask for information on how your organization/group/department has been affected by being involved in any aspect of public policy development or reform.

10. What factors brought your organization/group to the decision to take up policy-related activities?

11. In what ways does working to affect public policies impact the types of projects your group does and how you do them? Please consider such aspects as your autonomy, unity, identity, and politics.

12. In what ways has your group's/department's capacity been impacted by your work on policy-related activities?
 - a. What has been the impact on the use of time and resources, as well as access to resources?

b. How has your sustainability been affected?

c. Has your organization/group/department's structure been affected by the work you are involved with concerning policy?

d. Has your access to charitable status been affected by your policy-related work?

Yes. Please explain

No

13. How have your goals, strategies, how you see a problem, the language you use and/or ways of working been affected by working with government departments and other organizations (allies) on policy?

14. Have the issues you address, the allies you identify and work with and/or the spokespersons you identify been affected by working on policy-related initiatives? Please explain.

15. Please identify any other issues or goals that have received less attention than you intended as a result of your work on policy issues.

If you are government employee responding:

16. From a government department perspective, how has your policy-related work with community-based groups impacted those groups?

17. From a government department perspective, how has input from community-based groups impacted your work on public policy? What kinds of input have you been able to integrate into your departmental policy recommendations?