

# Public Participation in Alberta's Energy and Natural Resources Development:

*Is There Room For Improvement?*

# Roles in Public Participation

- Informed Observer (Student of Public Participation)
- Practitioner
- Participant
- Decision maker

Our role colors our perceptions of PP

➤ Who is here today?

# My Perspective - Lots of Room for Improvement

- Need to Create Clarity on the 'What' vs. the 'How' in the Resource Development Policy Framework
  - Public Interest
  - Standing
- Public Participation Approaches Have Changed Little Since 1970's
- Regulatory Approaches to Public Participation Matter (Prescriptive vs. Outcome Based)
  - Is a regulatory hearing public participation?

# Stakeholder Engagement in the Energy Industry- What Has changed?

<i>Publics</i>	<u>Late 70's – Mid 90's</u>	<u>Post Mid 90's</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ More complex</li> </ul>
<i>Industry Profile</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Small group of dominant majors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Income trusts</li> <li>■ Juniors</li> <li>■ Majors N/OS/EC</li> </ul>
<i>Strategic Business Planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Long term stakeholder focus</li> <li>■ Recognition of strategic role of stakeholders</li> <li>■ Corporate memory</li> <li>■ Quasi business case (enlightened self-interest)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Short term stakeholder focus</li> <li>■ 1/4ly Income focus</li> <li>■ Juniors – 5 yr. exit</li> <li>■ No corporate history</li> <li>■ Stakeholder understanding limited</li> </ul>
<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Little or No Regulatory Requirement</li> <li>■ Part of the process to build relationships</li> <li>■ Resourced by specialists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prescriptive Requirements</li> <li>■ The objective (check the box)</li> <li>■ A land function</li> </ul>

# Opportunities for Improvement

- Defining the “Public Interest” in Policy (not in the context of individual regulatory decision making processes)
- Provide outcome based regulatory compliance requirements for public participation
- Incent innovation in consultation process and approaches
- Expand regulatory decision making tool box to more than just regulatory hearings

# Conclusions

- Establish participation requirements and expectations around the LUF and regional/sub regional plans
- Practitioners – get more creative
- Participants – get smarter and demand more clarity
- Don't confuse regulatory hearing adjudication processes with public participation - they are not the same