

Environmental Scan

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1 Introduction

IAP2 Canada, through a member Engagement Process (What We Heard, 2011) and its Strategic Plan (2012) identified value in the integration of research into the organization's objectives. The proposed addition of a research initiative ranges in degree of complexity from sharing information on trends, best practices, innovations, to providing access to national and international public participation (P2) research through peer-reviewed journals, special publications and events, to sponsoring and conducting research in partnership with research organizations and academic institutions.

The IAP2 Canada research sub-committee has been struck to help formulate the terms of reference and subsequent action plan for the IAP2 Canada research initiative. The process is currently being spear-headed by Board Member Maria deBruijn and Sherif Kinawy from the Great Lakes Chapter. Maria and Sherif have worked with the Board of Directors to develop surveys regarding the proposed research initiative, initially targeting IAP2 Canada members and then, in the spring, an external audience (P2 practitioners that are not members of IAP2 Canada).

The intent of these surveys was two-fold:

- To conduct a member needs assessment related to P2 research,
- To assess the state of P2 practice external to IAP2 membership to help determine potential research topics.

The research sub-committee has also reviewed IAP2's mission, values, publications, and existing policies and practices in order to ultimately make recommendations to the IAP2 Canada Board.

1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to conduct an environmental scan of both member-based and like-initiatives comparable to IAP2 to produce an inventory of these organizations with descriptions of their approaches to research. Ultimately, the goal is to identify potential organizations for future research partnerships. The present environmental scan is part of the research subcommittee's mandate, along with the State of the Practice survey, to support putting forward recommendations for future research partnerships.

The environmental scan should be considered a living document and should be updated regularly (annually at minimum) in order to reflect the public participation research environment as it evolves. An interesting approach could be to collaborate with IAP2 Chapters across Canada, whereby Chapters would conduct scans at the regional level and the Research Subcommittee (or an alternate structure within the IAP2 Federation) would assemble this information centrally and disseminate it across the organization. IAP2 Chapters could also be encouraged to follow a similar process for provincial and municipal organizations (i.e. engineers, associations, planners, local not for profit etc.).

1.2 Research Scope

The scope of the environmental scan includes organizations from Western, Eastern, and Atlantic Canada; organizations that act on a Canada-wide basis; and international organizations. To conduct the environmental scan, over one hundred websites were selected and analyzed based on inventories of organizations provided by the IAP2 Collaboration and Outreach Committee and the Centre for Public Involvement based in Edmonton, as well as on research conducted by members of the Research Subcommittee.

Though the scan focuses on Canadian organizations, the Subcommittee also received the directive to conduct a scan of international organizations. This is a particularly interesting opportunity as it has the potential to open doors to collaborative, outward-looking and creative research. However, a scan of potential partners on an international scale is a large task. The information presented here is the result of a preliminary scan which draws on past work at the Federation level of IAP2 as well as a scan completed by the Centre for Public Involvement, generously shared with the committee. The objective of the international scan at this stage is to provide enough information to enable a reflection on possible future directions for IAP2 Canada research on an international scale.

In addition to the online research conducted, the research subcommittee also reviewed the work of IAP2 Canada member organizations that are currently associated with IAP2 and affiliate organizations provided by the IAP2 Federation.

IAP2 Canada's membership base is made up of a diverse and growing group of people and organizations who design, implement, use, and participate in public participation processes. The membership represents a broad spectrum of fields and specialties, and members often work with the public to develop policy, make decisions, or implement programs. Some member organizations provide a forum for related discussions and conduct research and publish reports on best practices and changing trends in the public participation field. They are included in this environmental scan for their potential to further partner with IAP2 Canada on research initiatives.

1.3 Research Approach

To assess and compare P2 research organizations, we developed a set of evaluation criteria. We suggest this criteria remain the standard for subsequent environmental scans conducted in future years.

First, for each organization identified, we asked the questions in the table below:

Initial Questions to Ask	Value (Yes/No)
Is the organization active and fully functioning?	
Is the organization active in research?	

If the answer was ‘no’ to either of the questions, further analysis was not pursued. If the answers were ‘yes’ to the initial questions above, the assessment continued with the following evaluation matrix below:

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions	Partnership Evaluation Rating (HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW)
Scope and Type of Public Participation/Engagement Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the organization focused on the public engagement process? ▪ Is the research applicable to practice? ▪ Does the organization go beyond the collection of social policy and other data (level of analysis)? ▪ Does the organization conduct research or is it a passive collector (level of activity)? 	<p>HIGH - practice, collect data, and conduct directly related research; has partnership potential</p> <p>MEDIUM - practice, collect data and conduct related research (such as front-end service but not directly research activities)</p> <p>LOW - practice, collect data and conduct research in other focus areas that are unrelated to public participation practices</p>
Capacity to Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the organization currently in a collaborative relationship with similar organizations or other relevant organizations (e.g. public institutions)? ▪ Has the organization been active in research in the past? 	<p>HIGH – Yes to either or both of the questions</p> <p>LOW – No to both questions</p>

2 Key Organizations in Canada and International

The following section of this report illustrates the key organizations for consideration of research partnerships. The organizations are categorized under their geographic locations into the four group listings. Western Canada includes Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan; while Eastern Canada consists of Ontario and Quebec.

2.1 Western Canada

The six key potential research partnership candidates in Western Canada include both IAP2-like initiatives, highly active University departments, and a not-for-profit organization. These organizations conduct research on directly related topics in public participation and offer rich resources on various levels including Engaging Civil Society in the Creation of Sustainable Cities, and Stakeholder and Citizen Roles in Public Deliberation.

The following organizations from Western Canada all received a 'HIGH' partnership evaluation rating:

- Alberta Climate Change Dialogue
- Center for Public Involvement – partnership between City of Edmonton and University of Alberta
- Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)
- University of British Columbia – School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP)
- University of Victoria – Institute for Studies and Innovation in Community-University Engagement under the Faculty of Human and Social Development and Faculty of Social Sciences.
- Simon Fraser University – Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

2.2 Eastern Canada

In addition to several Eastern Canadian organizations that scored MEDIUM in the potential partnership evaluation rating, the following seven candidates stand out in their HIGH rating for the number of resources and research conducted on related topics and their interesting partnership potential:

- Institut du Nouveau Monde
- Living Lab de Montreal
- McGill University – School of Urban Planning
- McMaster University - Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA)
- Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement
- Université de Montréal - Department of Political Science
- Université de Québec à Outaouais – Department of Social Sciences

2.3 Canada-wide

Two national IAP2-like initiatives were identified with 'HIGH' partnership potential due to their leading research and reports on a wide variety of topics including climate change, corporate social responsibility (CSR), aboriginal engagement, governance and public sector governance and policy issues, dialogue and deliberation.

The following organizations provide directly related resources, training events, and workshops across Canada as opposed to a particular province:

- Canadian Business for Social Responsibility (CBSR)
- Canadian Community for Dialogue and Deliberation (C2D2)

2.4 International

IAP2 Canada is encouraged to consider the presence of other IAP2 affiliates across the globe as a key point of entry to conducting research across borders. Affiliates currently exist in Australasia, France, Southern Africa, USA, Italy, Portugal, and Indonesia. New affiliates are also potentially being formed in Germany and Western Africa.¹ IAP2 Canada could consider partnering directly with these affiliates, or accessing international contacts with their help. This approach may help narrow and refine the list of possible research partners.

As in the Canadian context, organizations interested in public participation on the international scale are wide-ranging. A complete international scan would consider:

- Development organizations who conduct participatory work (such as the World Bank or the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development)
- International federations and accreditation bodies
- Country-specific research centres
- Academic institutions

Several global organizations based in the UK and the US that focus on collaborative research are interesting candidates for potential partnerships. They have been previously identified by the Subcommittee as their nature of research initiatives correspond well with the research topics and interest areas of IAP2.

¹ <http://www.iap2.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=6>

The following organizations (both existing and potential partnerships) provide extensive research and resources on citizenship participation and deliberative democracy:

- Charles F. Kettering Foundation – current partner
- Deliberative Democracy Consortium (DDC) – current partner
- Development Research Citizenship, Participation, and Accountability (Citizenship DRC)
- LogoLink
- Stanford University – Centre for Deliberative Democracy

3 Results of Potential IAP2 Canada Research Partnerships

The detailed results of the environmental scan of organizations conducting public participation research and further information on those identified for potential research partnerships are captured in this section. The results are again grouped under different geographic areas with three current partnerships listed separately at the end, with continuing rather than potential partnerships. The preliminary list of potential research partners been evaluated according to the criteria established earlier in this report.

The organizations are also differentiated by “Like Initiative” and “Member Organization” with the following definitions:

IAP2-Like Initiative: Organizations (including businesses, non-profits, academic institutions, associations, community groups etc.) that have similar mandate and practices with IAP2 Canada and IAP2 organizations.

Member Organization: Organizations with employees, students or faculty that are IAP2 Canada members, either through group or individual membership, as of November 2013.

In addition, educational institutions are identified.

Organizations inactive in research were not assessed by the criteria identified; however, many of these organizations are interesting sources of information and repositories of research, even if they are not active in conducting it themselves. For a complete list of organizations examined, please refer to Appendix A, B, C, and D.

3.1 Western Canada Potential Partnerships

Alberta Climate Change Dialogue (ABCD) – Like Initiative²

ABCD studies various citizen engagement methods and designs and compares them to understand what modifications to the process will lead to real change. By creating deliberative activities focused on climate change and by linking it to current government policy decisions, citizen engagement can be truly influential. ABCD conducts research and publishes a series of working papers on stakeholder and citizens roles in public deliberation including:

- Stakeholder and Citizen Roles in Public Deliberation
- Citizen Deliberation and Oil Sands Policy

Center for Public Involvement – Like Initiative³

The Center for Public Involvement is a unique partnership between the City of Edmonton and University of Alberta. The collaboration is designed to advance research and learning in the area of public involvement, with the objective of enhanced decision-making at all levels. The organization and governance framework established by the partnering organizations draws on the unique expertise of each, establishing an environment where creative cooperation facilitates public involvement results beyond what is possible via single entity endeavours.

The Center publishes various work and projects on citizen planning, community sustainability, and internet voting topics. The partnership also explicitly welcomes and invites other potential partners through their website.

Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) – Like Initiative⁴

SPARC BC is a non-partisan, charitable organization that was established in 1966. SPARC BC focuses on social justice issues and works together with communities on: Accessibility, Community Development, Income Security, and Social Planning. SPARC BC services focus on people and process building capacities for communities and organizations.

SPARC BC has extensive experience and research including publishing various social issues and topics:

- Engaging Civil Society in the Creation of Sustainable Cities
- Six Tips for Online Accessible Dialogue
- Arts As A Tool for Community Engagement

² <http://www.albertaclimatedialogue.ca>

³ <http://centreforpublicinvolvement.com>

⁴ <http://www.sparc.bc.ca/our-focus-research-consulting>

University of British Columbia (UBC), School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) – Member Organization (individual members) and Educational Institution⁵

SCARP's mission is to advance the transition to sustainability through excellence in integrated policy and planning research, professional education and community service. It is one of the first dedicated planning schools in Canada. With more than five decades of experience in graduate planning education and research, SCARP pioneered the integrated approach to planning for development.

SCARP conducts workshop and research on Community Development and Social Planning, including research to develop and test multi-media tools and techniques for improving public engagement and discourse in the areas of urban design and neighbourhood development. The Centre for Human Settlements, a unit within the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), involves faculty and student associates from various departments at UBC in multidisciplinary research and capacity-building programs related to regional, urban, and community development.

University of Victoria (UVic), Institute for Studies and Innovation in Community-University Engagement – Member Organization (individual members) and Educational Institution⁶

Formally known as the Office of Community-Based Research (OBSR), the Institute builds on the history and context of commitment by UVic to community-engagement embedded in their Strategic Plan.

Using an innovative structure of joint community and university governance and collaboration, the Institute provides a space for the study and practice of engagement scholarship and interdisciplinary innovation.

It has a new initiative providing services through the Research Partnerships and KM Unit with directly related research on public engagement, public policy development and improved theory and practice.

⁵ <http://www.scarp.ubc.ca/research/social-planning-and-community-development/inclusive-public-engagement-urban-design>

⁶ <http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cue/>

3.2 Eastern Canada Potential Partnerships

Institut du Nouveau Monde – Like-Initiative⁷

The Institut du Nouveau Monde is a non-partisan organization with the mission to encourage citizen participation and to generate new ideas in Quebec. It works directly with doctorate students in the field of public participation and its current areas of focus/expertise include: citizen participation, participatory democracy, social acceptability, participatory governance, social entrepreneurship and social innovation.

The organization has been involved in past local IAP2 networking events in Montreal and has expressed strong interest in being involved with IAP2. The Institute also manages a program called the Laboratory of Social Innovation, through which they accompany organizations in public participation activities (could be a starting point for a joint applied research project.)

Living Lab de Montréal – Like Initiative⁸

Modelled after the MIT living labs, the Living Lab de Montréal is a centre of innovation in public participation using Web 2.0 and social media. It carries out directly related practice and research projects in partnership with other organizations, for example, the International Responsive City research project.

McGill School of Urban Planning – Educational Institution⁹

The faculty and students of the School of Urban Planning at McGill are actively engaged in a variety of research endeavors focused on urban planning in relation to public participation. Sample articles that were published include:

- Montréal's municipal guidelines for participation and public hearings: assessing context, process and outcomes
- Anchoring the creativity of port cities: inclusion of diverse stakeholders in the redevelopment of urban districts

McMaster University – Educational Institution¹⁰

Dr. Julia Abelson is a member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA) at McMaster, and also an Associate Member of the Political Science department. Her research interests include:

- The design and evaluation of public engagement processes to inform health system decision making
- The analysis of the role of public values in health policy
- The analysis of the determinants of health policy decision-making

⁷ <http://www.inm.qc.ca/a-propos>

⁸ <http://www.livinglabmontreal.org/tiki-index.php?page=Mission>

⁹ <http://www.mcgill.ca/urbanplanning/research>

¹⁰ http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/ceb/faculty_member_abelson.htm

Through her research, education and service activities, Dr. Abelson works closely with decision makers in provincial, regional and local government levels. Developing a professional partnership with her and her research may provide value to IAP2.

Tamarack - An Institute for Community Engagement – Like Initiative¹¹

Founded in 2001, Tamarack is a charity that develops and supports learning communities to help people collaborate and to co-generate knowledge that solves complex community challenges, in particular ending poverty. Its online resource library is organized by what Tamarack has identified as foundational themes within the field of community engagement. Each theme contains an overview of core concepts as well as links to more in-depth research and other resources to enable further exploration of the theme.

Tamarack publishes research on:

- Community Engagement: A Necessary Condition for Self-Determination and Individual Funding
- Towards Whole of Community Engagement: A Practical Toolkit. Canberra, Australia: Murray-Darling Basin Commission
- Community Engagement Techniques and Tools

Université de Montréal, Department of Political Science – Member Organization (individual members) and Educational Institution¹²

The faculty and students of the department of Political Science at the University of Montreal are actively engaged in a variety of research endeavors focused on public participation. The research project underway on the professionalization of public participation, led by Professor Laurence Behrer, has specific partnership potential.

Université du Québec en Outaouais, Department of Social Sciences – Educational Institution¹³

The faculty and students of the department of Social Science at this university are actively engaged in a variety of directly related research. Professor Mario Gauthier leads research on public participation, especially related to development issues in Quebec. Work has been done in partnership with several government departments and other organizations. He is affiliated with Villes, Régions, Monde.

¹¹ <http://tamarackcommunity.ca/index.php>

¹² <http://pol.umontreal.ca/accueil/>

¹³ <http://services.uqo.ca/DosEtuCorpsProf/PageProfesseur.aspx?id=mario.gauthier>

3.3 Canada-wide Potential Partnerships

Canadian Business for Social Responsibility (CBSR) – Like Initiative¹⁴

CBSR is a non-profit organization with a mission to accelerate and scale corporate social and environmental sustainability in Canada and challenge the "business as usual" model.

Its CBSR Reports and Publication Library is a rich resource of leading research and reports on a wide variety of topics including climate change mitigation, CSR governance, aboriginal engagement, water management, and many more.

3.4 International Potential Partnerships

Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation & Accountability (Citizenship DRC) – Like Initiative¹⁵

Based in UK, Citizenship DRC is an experiment in global research that began in 2001 involving the assembly of a research consortium to investigate how citizens hold institutions to account and claim their rights. The intent of the project is to support long-term research with the objectives of generating new knowledge and disseminating it widely to decision-makers and practitioners, and building the capacity of partner institutions to carry out high-quality research, communication and policy engagement. Over a decade, the Citizenship DRC has built a network of researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and activists and collected more than 150 empirically grounded case studies that examine how citizen action and participation shape states and societies.

Its Participation, Power and Social Change research team have a long history in the use, spread and critique of participatory methodologies. Their capacity development and networking activities, including workshops and exchange visits, are linked to their research and policy work. These take place from grassroots through to global levels. Their research and resources include:

- Citizens' Media and Participatory Communication
- Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability
- Participation, Power and Politics

LogoLink – Like Initiative¹⁶

LogoLink promotes dialogue, exchange and learning about participatory local governance initiatives from field-based innovations and expressions of democracy which contribute to social justice. LogoLink projects and initiatives create spaces for reflection, learning and exchange among and between partners and various

¹⁴ <http://www.cbsr.ca/publications-research>

¹⁵ <http://www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/participatory-methodologies>

¹⁶ <http://www.logolink.org/index.php>

stakeholder audiences, whilst situating reflection and learning within the broader political contexts at the national, regional and global levels.

LogoLink's research focus tends to be on the legal structures around public participation. The strength of this organization is that it is a community of practitioners from civil society organizations, research institutions and governments.

Stanford University, Centre for Deliberative Democracy – Educational Institution¹⁷

The centre devotes itself to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling®, a technique combining deliberation in small group discussions with scientific random sampling to provide public consultation for public policy and for electoral issues.

Research papers that have been published within the US and worldwide include:

- Making Deliberative Democracy Practical: Public Consultation and Dispute Resolution
- Consensus and Polarization in Small Group Deliberations
- The Deliberative Voter

3.5 Current Partners for Continued Partnership Consideration

Charles F. Kettering Foundation – Like Initiative¹⁸

The Kettering Foundation is a nonprofit operating foundation rooted in the American tradition of cooperative research. Kettering's primary research focuses on ways to "make democracy work" through interrelated program areas that focus on citizens, communities, and institutions.¹⁹ Kettering's collaborative research has strength and is distinctive because it is conducted from the perspective of citizens and focuses on what people can do collectively to address problems affecting their lives, their communities, and their nation. The Foundation seeks to identify and address the challenges to making democracy work as it should through interrelated program areas that focus on citizens, communities, and institutions.

An interesting precedent for research partnerships was established with the completion, in 2009, of a joint research initiative between the IAP2 Federation and the Charles F. Kettering Foundation. This joint research initiative drew on a literature review and interviews conducted in 12 countries to compare perceptions, practices

¹⁷ <http://cdd.stanford.edu/research/>

¹⁸ <http://kettering.org/>

¹⁹ <http://kettering.org/who-we-are/our-focus/>

and outcomes of public participation²⁰. It appears that organizations such as the Kettering Foundation that have an explicit focus on “collaborative research” hold great potential for IAP2 partnerships.

Deliberative Democracy Consortium (DDC) – Like Initiative²¹

DDC is an association of leading scholars and organizations that seek to promote the emerging movement to institutionalize public involvement processes. The Consortium aims to share information, build knowledge through research, and generally promote a strong citizen voice in government decisions. The Deliberative Democracy Consortium has embarked on an ambitious research agenda that will build knowledge around the actual impact of deliberation upon civic attitudes and behavior, and the sustainability of follow-on efforts.

Its Journal for Public Deliberation is particularly interesting as it is a creation of knowledge-sharing networks for both federal managers and practitioners. DDC has also published work on:

- Deliberative Democracy Handbook
- Model Ordinance for Public Participation
- Using Online Tools for Engagement

National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD) – Like Initiative²²

NCDD is a community of individuals and organizations dedicated to the creation and sustainability of vibrant communities, businesses, governments, not for profits and learning institutions through the good practice of dialogue, deliberation, collaborative action and decision-making processes. It offers training events, workshops and course listings to support work in dialogue and deliberation. It also conducts directly related research and publishes the Public Engagement Resource Guide.

There has been an initial exchange of interest and communications between NCDD and IAP2 to be involved in using their online Resource Center of articles, manuals, and guides on public participation. IAP2 in turn would contribute to the research resources and promote this partnership.

²⁰ http://www.iap2.org/associations/4748/files/Kettering_FINALExecutiveSummaryReport.pdf

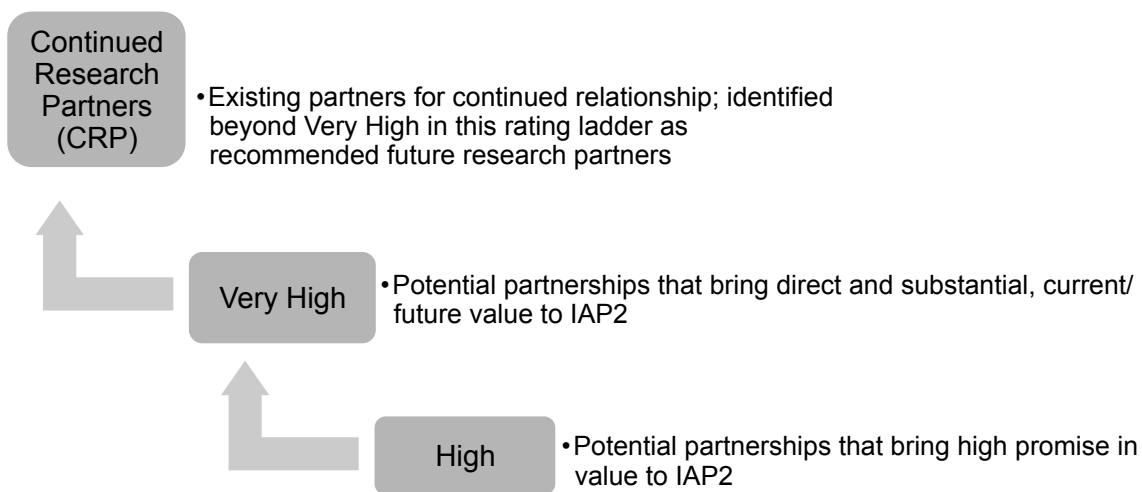
²¹ http://www.deliberative-democracy.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=9&Itemid=135

²² <http://www.c2d2.ca/learning>

4 Recommendations and Value Table for IAP2 Canada Research Partnerships

A total of nineteen organizations (including both like initiatives and members) identified in Section 3 were proposed to the subcommittee for further consideration. The potential partnerships identified below are organizations that incorporate public participation as a substantial part of a wider area of research interest.

The recommendations listed below summarize the assigned values for potential partnership types based on a three-tiered value ladder: Continued Research Partners (CRP), Very High and High. Definition of each value is identified below and the template of the Recommendations and Value Table and compilation of evaluation results is available in Appendix E.



The following recommendations of potential research partnerships and their ratings are ready for IAP2 Canada Board's review and input:

Organization	Potential Partnership Type (public participation research in relation to...)	Value
<i>Western Canada</i>		
Alberta Climate Change Dialogue	Climate change and oil sands policy	High
Center for Public Involvement – partnership between City of Edmonton and University of Alberta	Citizen planning, community sustainability, and internet voting	High
Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC)	Social planning and social justice	Very High

Organization	Potential Partnership Type (public participation research in relation to...)	Value
University of British Columbia – School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP)	Community and regional planning and sustainability	Very High
University of Victoria – Institute for Studies and Innovation in Community-University Engagement	Community sustainability and public policy	High
<i>Eastern Canada</i>		
Institut du Nouveau Monde	Innovation and social entrepreneurship	Very High
Living Lab de Montreal	Social innovation and social media	Very High
McGill School of Urban Planning	Urban planning	High
Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement	Ending poverty	High
Université de Montréal, Department of Political Science	Potential relationship with an individual (Professor Lawrence Behrer); Professionalism of the public participation practice	High
Université du Québec en Outaouais, Department of Social Sciences	Potential relationship with an individual (Professor Mario Gauthier); Development issues	High
McMaster University	Potential relationship with an individual (Professor Julia Abelson); Public participation evaluation process	Very High
<i>Canada-Wide</i>		
Canadian Business for Social Responsibility (CBSR)	Corporate Social Responsibilities issues: climate, water, aboriginal	High
Canadian Community for Dialogue and Deliberation (C2D2)	Focused on creation and sustainability of vibrant communities, businesses, governments, not for profits and learning institutions through the good practice of dialogue, deliberation, collaborative action and decision-making processes.	High
<i>International</i>		
National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD)	Exchanged communications and interest; Resource Center of handbooks, guide books, and social media tools on public deliberation and participation	CRP (beyond Very High)
Charles F. Kettering Foundation	Existing partner; joint research on citizens, communities, and institutions	CRP

Organization	Potential Partnership Type (public participation research in relation to...)	Value
Deliberative Democracy Consortium (DDC)	Existing partner; Journal for Public Deliberation, Handbook, model and online tools	CRP
Development Research Citizenship, Participation, and Accountability (Citizenship DRC)	Citizenship, citizen's rights, policy, and social change	High
LogoLink	Legal structure and social justice	High
Stanford University – Centre for Deliberative Democracy	Focus on democracy and online polling	High

5 Conclusion

There are many organizations active in the dialogue around public participation across the globe, however, it appears that a filter of those actually conducting research in areas of value to IAP2 Canada, versus those who collect and share research, is a good first step in identifying potential national and international research partners. With a consistent research approach and clearly defined evaluation criteria, a total of fourteen candidates in Canada and three international organizations are recommended for potential partnership consideration. In addition, we also suggest that IAP2 pursue a connection with the three existing partnerships through the Federation. This initial list has been further refined through a Recommendations and Value Table to provide the IAP2 Canada Board with analysis of the highest value options as assessed by the IAP2 Canada research subcommittee.

Further, although international research partnerships could be fruitful, and continuing research partnerships are proposed, IAP2 Canada may consider whether international research has priority over more locally-focused initiatives, given that the Federation is involved in work on the international scale. Further, IAP2 Canada also has the opportunity to work through national affiliates to identify potential partnerships.