Did you know?

Since 2007, more than 1,400 Canadians have volunteered 56,000 hours to support more than 35 different Reference Panels and Citizens’ Assemblies. 1 in 38 Canadian households has received an invitation to serve in a deliberative process.

Canada is a global leader in citizen deliberation

#delibwave
The Deliberative Wave
Securing a future for democratic politics

Peter MacLeod
Principal, MASS LBP

@petermacleod  #delibwave
years of MASS LBP
We have completed more than 200 projects with public sector and non-profit clients across Canada...
...and we’ve been steadily making in-roads.
Democracy is under pressure.
THE DELIBERATIVE WAVE: SECURING A FUTURE FOR DEMOCRATIC POLITICS | @petermacleod | @masslbp
Health and social problems are worse in unequal countries

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett
Top 1% income share (1910-2010)

Source: Thomas Piketty
TRUST INEQUALITY PERSISTS IN CANADA

Trust index, Canada

2019 Edelman Trust Barometer. The Trust Index is the average per cent trust in NGOs, business, government and media. TRU_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right using a nine-point scale where one means that you “do not trust them at all” and nine means that you “trust them a great deal.” 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. Informed public and mass population, Canada.
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THE DELIBERATIVE WAVE: SECURING A FUTURE FOR DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

Pessimism

Populism

Polarization
Democratic Politics

- Majoritarian
- Exclusive
- Blame-game

- Partisan
- Short-term
- Trivial

- Reactive
- Zero-sum
- Distant

Democracy
I have a mandate from the people

You don’t speak for me

You only speak for yourself
We have built a highly mediated politics, of us and them, insider and outsider, doer and done to.
Inclusive governance
We need new ways of thinking and acting... and being political
Barn-raising

The second franchise

Citizen deliberation
“I can’t provide refugees fast enough for all the Canadians who want to sponsor them.”

John McCallum
Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship, 2016
New York Times
Barn-raising  The second franchise  Citizen deliberation
INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC TRUST | @petermacleod | @masslbp

Share the privilege of representation
Barn-raising

The second franchise

Citizen deliberation
Two essential Canadian pilots
2001: British Columbia Provincial Election

916,888  540,378 votes
62%  38% support
49  30 seats
77  2 seats
2004: British Columbia Citizens’ Assembly

23,000 invitations
1715 volunteers
161 members
10 weekends
“...people who have so little going on in their lives that they are prepared to spend 18 weekends discussing proportional representation”

Christina Blizzard, The Toronto Sun
“...looking for some excitement in their humdrum lives.”

Ian Urquhart, The Toronto Star
"It’s ridiculous."

Professor Nelson Wiseman, University of Toronto
What has been maligned at home has been celebrated abroad.
Irish Citizens’ Assemblies
French Citizens’ Assembly
Welcome to the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland

Scottish Citizens’ Assembly

This site has all the information you need to understand what a Citizens’ Assembly is, how it works, and how you can be involved.
Copenhagen Citizens’ Assembly
The growing deliberative wave

BC & Ontario Assemblies on Electoral Reform

American Citizens’ Assembly

German & Netherlands

Australian Citizens’ Juries

Irish Citizens’ Commission “Marriage Equality”

Irish Citizens’ Assembly “Reproductive Choice”

Canadian Reference Panels on Health Services

Canadian Reference Panels on Provincial, Regional and Municipal Issues

Canadian Reference Panel on Pharmacare

Australia

Poland

Northern Ireland

Scotland

England

Belgium

Wales

Spain

France

Norway

Scotland

England

Belgium

Wales

Spain

France

Norway
Three core elements

- **Mandate**: “Big ask, clear task”
- **Civic Lottery**: “Randomly selected, demographically representative”
- **Deliberation**: “Citizen-expert dialogue”
Three deliberative projects

Constitutional: Resolve intractable national issues
Parliamentary: Complement parliamentary infrastructure
Regulatory: Expand the scope of citizenship
Validation ➔ contribution
Survey-taking ➔ problem-solving
Risk ➔ Resource
Useful recommendations

Enhanced transparency and institutional trust

Organizational learning

Democratic fitness
Problem definition and policy development

Consultation
Action

Problem identification
Citizen Deliberation
Policy Development
Consultation
Action

Problem identification
Citizen Deliberation
Policy Development
Citizen Determination
Action
1. Who’s in the room and how did they get there?
2. Are you asking for their opinion or to represent the views of others?
3. Is there a real task?
4. What learning needs to occur?
THE DELIBERATIVE WAVE: SECURING A FUTURE FOR DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

Convene

Learn

Consult

Deliberate

Recommend

Convoquer

Apprendre

Consulter

Délibérer

Recommander
Canadian Precedents

- Digital Identity and Privacy
- Regional transportation priorities
- Housing legislation
- Income polarization
- Supervised Injection Services
- Hospital Services and Budgetting
- Municipal Amalgamation
- Long-term land use planning
- Compensation and work hours for councillors

- Heavy infrastructure
- Airport Noise
- Municipal Revenues
- Pharmaceutical insurance
- Mental Health
- Municipal Planning Policies
- Cancer Care
- Public Housing
METROLINX

A special invitation to help create the next transportation plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

Dear Resident of
86-1212 Sky Line Drive
Toronto, ON M3A 4F4

The deliberative wave: securing a future for democratic politics

@petermacleod
@masslbp

Only 12,000 households in Toronto have been randomly selected to receive this invitation

We need you to volunteer for the City of Toronto's new Planning Review Panel

Resident of
22-100 Dilworth Avenue
Toronto, ON M4R 2D0

Deadline
October 6
Respond Today
Ontario Reference Panel on the Condominium Act
Toronto Pearson Reference Panel on Noise Fairness
Toronto Planning Review Panel
Canadian Reference Panel on Pharmacare
Why?

Make sure it doesn’t happen again
Learn something new
Meet other people
Make a difference
Give something back
Creating new public norms

35 Reference Panels
410,000 households
1,400 panelists
56,000 hours of deliberation
1 in 38 households have received an invitation
Game-changer: Creating Canada’s Democratic Action Fund

A plan for giving Canadians a seat at the table and creating better public policy

Creating a Democratic Action Fund

The Democratic Action Fund would provide opportunities for more Canadians to shape the policies that shape their lives. Fully funded, the Democratic Action Fund would reach 800,000 Canadian households each year and provide deliberative programming for as many as 3,000 Canadians, contributing more than 120,000 hours of volunteer time to policy-making. Within ten years, every Canadian would receive an invitation to participate in one or more deliberative processes.

Moreover, these projects would:

- Support the creation of an active and engaged citizenship;
- Work to close the gap between elites and the general public;
- Increase trust in government;
- Create more responsive public policies that enjoy broad, popular support; and
- Bolster our existing system of representative democracy against the trends of rising populism, pessimism and polarization.
People want a say, but they’re also willing to serve.
The problem isn’t that we ask too much of people, but too little.