IDEA & Public Engagement
Reflection Tool

This reflection tool aims to support early-stage decisions about IDEA & public engagement. Use it to guide team discussion, then consult the **Companion Guide** for descriptions, prompts & resources.

IDEA
Who may benefit, be excluded, face barriers or be differently impacted?

Public Engagement
Whose perspectives or experiences may inform or be affected by the work?

Reciprocity
How can relationships support mutual respect, shared learning, transparency & benefit?

Context, Knowledge & Perspectives

1) How might this initiative affect different people or communities, and what opportunities exist to design and/or implement it in ways that address inequities, reduce barriers or increase inclusion?

2) What sources of knowledge currently inform this work (e.g., literature, existing data, lived experience, community or public insight)? Be explicit about what is & is not included.

3) Whose perspectives, lived experiences, or expertise are currently missing and may be important to this work?

DECISION POINT: WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

Based on your reflections, what action(s) are needed to ensure this work appropriately considers IDEA, public perspectives, reciprocity, and/or potential impacts? **Choose one or more.**

- **Engage with people &/or communities** — Seek missing perspectives through public engagement directly
- **Consult existing knowledge** — Build on evidence & prior public engagement
- **Apply data equity practices** — Examine equity in data & methods
- **Seek support or consultation** — Bring in expertise or additional capacity
- **Combination of approaches** — Use two or more where appropriate

READINESS

4) To what extent does this initiative have the time, resources, relationships, authority & flexibility needed to undertake the actions above & meaningfully respond to new insights as the work evolves?

SUPPORTS & ACCESSIBILITY

5) What conversations, resources or supports are needed to advance this work?
6) What are the barriers to inclusion, participation or accessibility & how can they be addressed?

POWER & RECIPROCITY

7) Who holds influence & decision-making authority?
8) What will different partners contribute & gain in return? How will those benefits be acknowledged?

REFLECT & ADAPT

9) How will you revisit your chosen approach(es)? What will you look for to understand impacts, support learning, strengthen reciprocity & adapt as the work evolves?

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Need support? Explore HDRN Canada IDEA resources at *hdrn.ca/data-equity/idea/*