



The *Engendering Public Engagement, Democratizing Public Space* project was inspired by the democratic consultation methods of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women between 1967 and 1970. It is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The project is divided into two streams. Stream one is organized around **five pilot public engagement exercises** that test different approaches to engaging feminists in public policy conversations

- ④ **Measuring violence:** What are the uses and abuses of quantitative measures in advancing women's right to live free of violence? This exercise uses a dialogue among academics, community-based advocates and government officials to analyze an increasingly prevalent policy technique.
- ④ **Engaging CEDAW:** Can grassroots feminist organizations engage effectively with United Nations Human Rights Treaty bodies to hold Canadian governments accountable for women's human rights? In this exercise, a Vancouver-based coalition of feminist organizations and women's human rights experts intervenes in the 2016 UN review of Canada's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- ④ **Surveying Policy Priorities:** Is a province-wide survey combined with participatory workshops an effective way to identify women's policy priorities? This exercise explores the use of an online survey to identify the top policy priorities for women in Saskatchewan and then convenes participatory workshops to further explore the priority issues and the policy alternatives.
- ④ **Changing Public Engagement from the Ground Up:** Can non-traditional methods of public engagement involve marginalized communities in policy discussions? What lessons do local experiments have for exercises on a larger geographic scale? This Halifax based initiative tests the potential of a range of art-based, online, and creative events to involve marginalized communities.
- ④ **Gender Equality Action Plan:** Can information and communications technology be used to engage women in a Canada-wide policy discussion? This exercise combines electronic communication methods and in-person small group discussions to involve women located in different communities in the identification of the priorities they would like included in a Canadian Gender Equality Plan.

Stream 2 focuses on **policy, communications and outreach**. Its activities include organizing panels and presentations at Congress 2017; producing policy issues and options material; preparing a Survey of Public Engagement; and initiating a Gender Policy Research Network.

Partners in the project are the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA), the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW), and York University's Centre for Feminist Research (CFR). Please check out the project website for the names of the twenty-person research team and for updates on the project, including on plans for a Gender Policy Research Network.

Visit our website at: www.policy4women.ca