



What is Public Participation?

‘Public Participation’ is any process that involves the public in problem-solving or decision-making and uses public input to make decisions. It includes all aspects of identifying problems developing alternatives, and making decisions. *

In healthcare, who is the ‘public’?

- Patients, clients, residents and consumers
- Family members, loved ones and caregivers
- Anyone who uses the healthcare system

You will hear a range of words and phrases used to describe ‘public participation’ work, including:

- Patient & Public Involvement
- Patient, Public and Community Engagement
- Citizen Engagement

And many variations on these examples!

For the purposes of VCH Community Engagement and the CEAN, our mandate is:

To develop and enhance patient and public participant in health service planning and decision-making, so that members of the public have a voice in the services and policies that affect their lives.

* (2005 International Association for Public Participation)