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| **“Real” community participation, what does it entail and how to plan (or not to plan)?** |
| **Objectives**  Forty years ago, the Alma-Ata declaration pledged a new approach to health improvement. Not only did the declaration define a new vision for the scope of actions that should be carried out within and beyond the walls of local health service centres but also urged practitioners to truly engage populations in developing action. While adopting participatory approaches to community health has since been affirmed in national and international health promotion conferences, in the scientific literature and in guidelines, operationalizing the concept in real life still presents challenges for health promoters. The workshop aims to bring together practitioners, managers, researchers, elected officials in order to improve collaboration and knowledge transfer on this issue.  This workshop is organised by researchers from Canada, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and will feature *inter alia* experiences of participatory initiatives with Canadian First Nations and Inuit communities. Through the mobilisation of participants, the objectives are to:   * Share experiences of strategies to community engagement in health promotion; * Identify neglected issues for practice, evaluation, research and knowledge transfer; * Foster the development of partnerships and a network on community-based participatory research.   **Format**  This workshop will foster reflections and mutual learning. The format will be highly interactive and discussions structured around 5 short presentations each concluding with a topical question that attendees will discuss. The session will cover the following issues:   1. How to plan for community engagement without a predefined plan and get funders on board? 2. How do we know that participation has empowered community members, or enhanced control over the determinants of their health? 3. Who is representing the community and how to engage them? 4. How to use survey data/ research methodologies to mobilise communities? 5. Why mapping the intervention theory matters?   The session will conclude with a plenary discussion. A synthesis of the main points stated will be forwarded to the attendees and beyond.  **Learning goals**  This workshop’s learning goals are to improve:   * understanding on how research and practice can improve each other; * skills in knowledge translation; * capacity to impact on community health through a participatory approach; * evaluation strategies for better reporting of impacts of participation on community action. |