

Turning Down the Heat – Resources

Overview / Statistics

- OECD [Innovative Public Participation](#)
 - “The OECD invites public authorities at all levels of government to involve everyday citizens in solving public problems through more engaging and representative forms of participation, such as deliberative processes. **The “deliberative wave” has been expanding, covering 34 countries**, with 96% of the cases situated within OECD Members. By yielding public judgements rather than public opinion, deliberative processes can lead to better policy outcomes. **When done effectively, they can enable policy makers to take hard decisions on challenging and contentious problems whilst enhancing trust.**”
 - The largest single determinant of trust in Canada is whether citizens feel heard. Only **four in ten Canadians** (40%) believe that the political system allows people like them to have a say in what government does. ([OECD](#))

Citizens Assemblies and Digital Tools

- [Citizens assemblies: Definition and standards](#), website from Poland ✓
 - [Citizens’ assemblies: Pioneered in B.C.](#) 20 years ago, they’re a growing pro-democracy tool: article on [The Conversation website](#)
 - [Citizens assemblies in Ireland](#) (website)
 - [The Irish Citizens Assembly](#) (audio, 64 min.) ✓
- [Taiwan’s Transformation](#) (audio, 54 min.) ✓
- [Audrey Tang](#), Taiwan’s cyber ambassador (2:27 min.)
- [vTaiwan, Audrey Tang, Polis](#) information and further links
- [The Computational Democracy Project](#) designs, engineers and maintains [Polis](#), ✓
an open source, real-time system for gathering, analyzing and understanding what large groups of people think in their own words, enabled by advanced statistics and machine learning.
 - “**Polis** is a platform for a [conversation](#), in which [participants](#) submit short text statements, or [comments](#), (<140 characters) which are then sent out [semi-randomly](#) to other participants to [vote](#) on by clicking agree, disagree or [pass](#). Polis allows [conversation owners](#) to create [conversations](#) which can

seamlessly engage (currently) up to hundreds of thousands or (conceivably) [millions of participants](#).”

- [Decidim](#) is an open-source digital platform for citizen participation in creating and refining legislation. It handles text-heavy, multi-month workflows—such as collaborative document drafting, participatory budgeting, amendment voting, and tracking project schedules. Polis can be used within the context of this process to map consensus.

Nunavut and NWT

- [What is Consensus Government? \(NWT\)](#) Overview, one page 
- [NWT Legislative Assembly \(various media\) Includes:](#)
 - Educational videos (**How a Bill Becomes Law** 4 min. and **Three Branches of Government** 3 min.)
 - [Comprehensive information package on the NWT government](#) (24 pp)
 - [Audio-visual tour of the NWT Legislature](#) (30 min.)
- [No political Parties: How Nunavut’s Consensus Government works](#) (video, CBC, 1:56 min.) 
- [Consensus-style government in Nunavut](#)
 - “Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are the only two Canadian jurisdictions that pursue a consensus approach to government. This approach has often been described as a fusion of Westminster-style structures and **aboriginal views of deliberation and decision-making**.”
 - [Consensus Government in NWT, Tim Mercer](#). History, Distinctive Features, civility & decorum (see p.6)

Podcasts/videos – Why projects like this are needed

- [A Citizen Future](#), Jon Alexander, with video clip [Time to Citizen](#) (2:47 min.) 
- CBC Ideas, [Can Abolishing Political Parties Topple Fascism?](#)
- [Global Democracy & Justice Lecture Series](#)
- TED talk [The Rising Cost of Dissent in America](#) Miles Taylor
- [Big Tech is Stifling Democracy](#) Alexis Crews