



How to support the public use scientific evidence to influence policy-making?



Why use scientific evidence?

- 1. To put issues on the governmental agenda (or block an issue from reaching it)
- 2. To think differently about problems and policy options
- 3. To propose policy options that are scientifically, politically, and socially robust
- 4. To defend (or block) decisions that have been made



Challenges of using scientific evidence

- 1. May not be valued by the public
- 2. May not be relevant or contextualized
- 3. May not be easy to 'use' (e.g., low level of literacy, not communicated effectively, not timely)
- 4. May not be the only factor influencing the public (and policy-makers)
- 5. May not be strong (e.g., limited body of evidence, inconclusive, controversial)
- 6. May not be known by the public







[http://scienceshop.ca]

Science shops

Facilities that provides independent participatory research support in response to concerns experienced by civil society



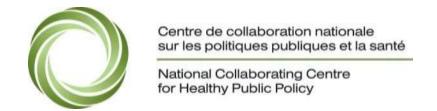
[http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org]

Deliberative dialogues

Dialogue that aims to ensure relevant evidence on pressing health concerns is used to fuel action for improving health outcomes through collective problem solving

Questions

- 1. What should we do when science is not consistent with prevailing public views regarding a public health issue?
- 2. Are there circumstances in which public views or prevailing public attitudes **should or should not be given greater consideration** than what the science of the day has to offer?





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