

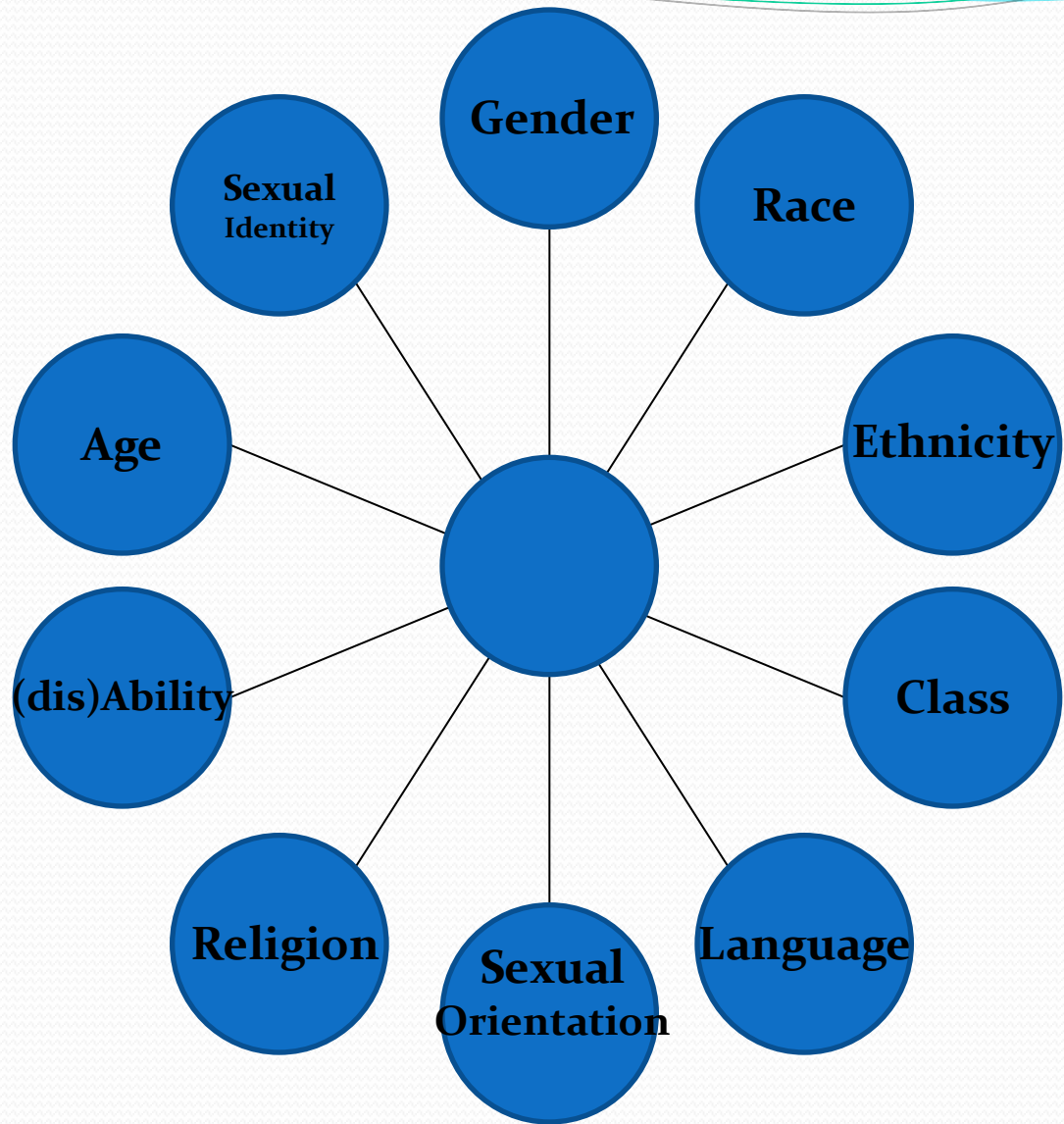
Union Of Nova Scotia Municipalities  
2015 Annual conference

*Strategies for Municipalities to Engage Diverse  
Communities*

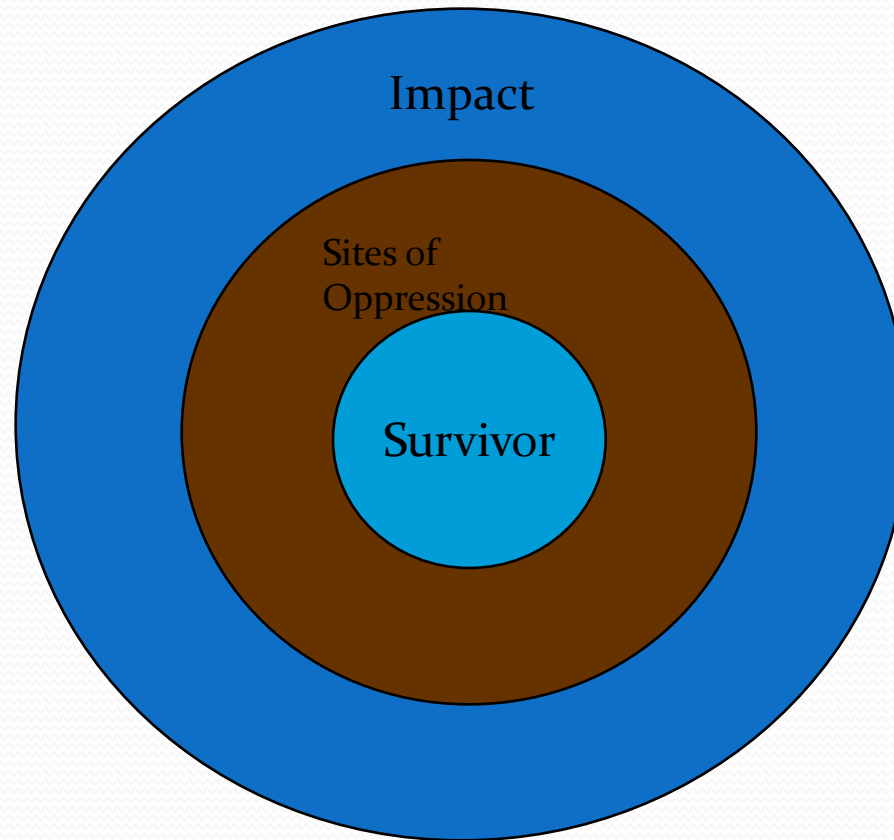
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# Life on the Margins and Lack of Community Engagement

- Marginalization and Oppression in NS
- How it impacts citizen engagement at Municipal and other levels of government
- What Strategies can help to make meaningful changes?



# Impact of oppression



# Strategies that May Make A Difference

- Start Early – Teach Citizen Engagement in Schools
- Planned
- Strategic
- Inclusion Integral not an Afterthought
- Target Seats
- Targeted Engagement
- Monitor and Evaluate
- Promote local government as a worthy volunteer opportunity
- Encourage ANS citizens to consider volunteering or running for Council, Boards and Committees

# ANSA and Citizen Engagement

- March 21, 2012 Workshops in four regions of NS in partnership with UNSM, Dalhousie, Service NS
- Engaged African Nova Scotians in their local communities and political processes
- Promoted local government as a worthy volunteer opportunity
- Encouraged ANS citizens to consider volunteering or running for Council, Boards and Committees
- Should make this an annual event

# Questions for Community Members re Citizen Engagement

- Think about yourself as a citizen.
- How do you relate to your municipality?
- What holds you back from more community engagement?
- How would you like that to change?



**IS CHANGE POSSIBLE?**



# Why have citizen engagement?

- It is a good way to get information upon which to make decisions and to provide information on a timely basis
- It make citizens feel as if they have been included in the decision making process

# Why have citizen engagement cont'd?

- It helps to create a learning community
- Participation makes good citizens
- Good Citizens make GREAT  
Communities

# What are GREAT communities?

- *Welcoming* Communities
- *Inclusive* Communities
- *Engaged* Communities
- *Committed* Communities

# Where to from here?

- Where are marginalized community members in UNSM?
- How can we move the agenda forward?
- What Policy and Practice Changes are Needed?

# Imagine the Future

- What do you think a Municipality with active citizen engagement look like?
- What can you do to make change happen?