

**Atlantic Planners Institute  
Newfoundland and Labrador Branch  
Planner's Plate**

## **Civic Engagement on a Shoestring: Lessons and Questions from Happy City St. John's**

Speaker:  
**Josh Smee**  
**Chair, Board of Directors**  
**Happy City St. John's**

Date: *Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Time: *12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.*

Place: *The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road, St. John's*

Happy City St. John's occupies an unusual position. It is an advocacy group with a mandate to press the City of St. John's to be better at engagement, transparency, and dialogue around the future of the city. At the same time, Happy City often works closely with the City, aiming to serve as a trusted voice and conduit for citizen input. In the coming months, Happy City will also be pushing to deepen its emerging relationships with the private sector, particularly developers - a relationship just as complex as the one with the city. No matter who is being engaged, the people doing the engaging are the same: a dedicated group of volunteers working from a minimal budget, with all the opportunities and constraints this involves.

This talk will share some of the lessons Happy City has learned about what works and what doesn't when it comes to generating grassroots interest in development issues. Whose voices are being heard when a citizens' group like Happy City reaches out, and whose are being missed? How can citizens groups and city staff work together to close those gaps? How do we have a little fun with it as we go along? Let's talk about it.

**Josh Smee** chairs the Board of Directors of Happy City St. John's, a group devoted to public participation and civic engagement. He also chairs the board of the St. John's Farmer's Market, and is involved as a volunteer with several other organizations. Josh works as a Project Associate at the Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador, and is also working on a Masters' Degree at MUN focused on Happy City's civic engagement work.

Price: \$20.00 for API members; \$25.00 for non-members. Lunch provided. Please advise in advance if you prefer vegetarian or have any food allergies. Payment in the form of cash/cheque at the door; receipts are available.

**A reservation is required. Please contact Ann-Marie Cashin: phone 782-1536 or e-mail [acashin@townofparadise.ca](mailto:acashin@townofparadise.ca) by Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Those who register but do not attend will be responsible for any cost incurred.**

The Planner's Plate lunchtime speaker series is organized by API's NL Branch and is open to all interested people. For information on planning, see [www.cip-icu.ca](http://www.cip-icu.ca) and [www.altanticplanners.org](http://www.altanticplanners.org). Each Plate is worth 1 Learning Unit for API's Continuous Professional Learning program.