

# **CHARACTERISTICS OF PUBLIC POLICY GROUPS**

## **Complicated network of parties:**

- Many affected parties (stakeholders)- some obvious, some not
- New parties emerge as negotiations/deliberations start or new options are considered
- Levels of expertise, power and resources may vary
- Decision making procedures (within individual entity) may differ
- Accountability varies

## **Broad Range of Issues:**

- Many complex issues
- New issues emerge
- Issues not clearly defined
- Little agreement on technical information
- Strongly held values are in conflict
- Uncertainty

## **Laws and Regulations May Constrain the Process:**

- Rules (internal to stakeholder organization) may contradict each other
- Schedules for action don't coincide
- Flexibility is limited
- Interpretations vary widely
- Everyone wants exceptions
- All decisions seem to set precedents
- Inadequate resources to meet requirements

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T COLLABORATE?**

- Problems emerge
- Sides form
- Positions harden
- Communication stops
- Resources are committed
- Coalitions are built
- Perceptions become distorted
- Crisis emerges
- Outcomes vary-decisions taken out of the hands of the stakeholders