

Next Steps

Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat

June 2010

Community Priorities Summit – Steps Forward

This plan presents the potential next steps by the Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat (VNPS) as it moves forward in overseeing that the ten goals set by the participants of the Community Priorities Summit are addressed. The information collected from the table feedbacks have informed this process and will continue to be referred back too as VNPS works alongside the province's volunteer and non-profit sector and within the provincial government to reach those goals established at the Summit.

This document is directed towards the implementation of processes for the summit goals and it is independent of the work being sought from the accountability team. The Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat will consider this to be a guiding document as it progresses forward in overseeing that the goals are satisfied.

Goal #1

Government and the community sector will together develop a workforce training strategy focused on addressing the current and future training needs of the voluntary and non-profit sector (VNPS). Within this strategy, there will be a formal assessment of training needs, a training committee and a mentoring program.

- There is a need to develop and conduct a baseline study capable of (i) describing volunteers and those employed in the sector, and (ii) identifying Newfoundland and Labrador's current training capabilities and resources. This study would also be used to recognize gaps in the province's training needs capable of formulating the foundations for an eventual training strategy for the sector.
- To pursue LMDA/LMA funding the study will need a clear labour market focus with a non-governmental organization taking the lead.
- Terms of Reference should be established early on to ensure that the baseline study has a clear set of parameters and focus.
- Committee to oversee the development and rollout of any eventual training strategy.
- Potential exists for approaching organizations outside the province on certain training issues such as those surrounding human resources.

Goal #2

With continuing community sector input relevant websites, such as EnVision or VNPS, will use their internet presence to provide virtual resources that support the operational needs of the sector while also striving to recognize and foster relationships amongst community sector participants.

- Table feedback gave an indication that this goal should be reaching beyond just websites to include a heightened emphasis on technology. Websites would remain

the central focus but attention should go towards technologies that provide for broader communication capabilities particularly for rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Major components of this goal would see expanded and productive use of tools tied to conferencing, web training, information exchange, resource sharing, webinars, and social media.
- A working group will have to be established on this goal.
- There is an acknowledgement that a combination of technically minded individuals and community representatives with the expertise to properly lead efforts on addressing this goal will be needed when going forward.
- There is a noticeable linkage between this goal and goal seven for the purposes of establishing regional networks and contacts amongst volunteers particularly in the rural areas.
- This goal is an ongoing issue; work needs to be done to establish what is needed.

Goal #3

Government will monitor the effectiveness of its multi-media campaign and, although recruitment/retention is not the primary purpose of the campaign, assess possible benefits of the campaign in improving recruitment and retention of both volunteers and paid employees.

- The upcoming campaign was never intended to increase recruitment and retention and is instead targeted towards promoting the sector's contributions in communities around the province.
- A representative group of community members will be surveyed for their views on the sector.

Goal #4

Government and the voluntary sector will together pursue research and fund social innovation.

- When studying social innovation it is important to make the distinction between it and other concepts such as social enterprise which are often confused.
- This goal creates funding expectations that need to be balanced against government priorities and eventual accountability demands.
- This is an area of growing interest and activity internationally that can be expected to sustain and continue to attract a great deal of attention.
- A policy report to be developed by a VNPS graduate student will focus upon the issue of supporting social innovation in Newfoundland and Labrador. This report is currently in the early stages of formal academic and ethical approvals, it will be used to identify potential options as this issue moves forward.

Goals #5

Government, through its grants programs, will provide multi-year core and project funding using consistent criteria, simplified application forms and simplified reporting/accountability requirements.

- This is an ongoing process within the provincial government.

Goal #6

Government and the community sector will explore options for group insurance and health plans in addition to other benefits for community sector organizations and their employees.

- Summer student to conduct a review involving a scan of existing products and services. This review will also look outside Newfoundland and Labrador to observe potential models or options in other jurisdictions.

Goal #7

Relevant government departments and community organizations will pursue the development of regional volunteer bureaus.

- A research scan has been discussed as a potential need to identify what is already being done within the province in an effort to avoid duplication. Any research scan should also incorporate a study of what models currently exist outside the province.
- Feedback indicated that there is a desire to have rural Newfoundland and Labrador focused upon with this goal.
- A connection between this goal and goal two regarding technology has been discussed.
- VNPS proposes to address this issue early in the next fiscal year.

Goal #8

Volunteer tax incentive programs will be researched across various jurisdictions and levels of government.

- Department of Finance has indicated its willingness to perform a research scan on this area.

Goal #9

Government and the community sector will work directly with young community leaders to ensure meaningful opportunities for youth engagement in the sector.

- Across government there are several initiatives to support and promote the involvement of young people in our society.
- There have already been exploratory discussions with the provincial government's Youth Attraction and Retention Strategy office on how this issue may be moved forward.

- Attention needs to be placed upon the differences faced by the province's rural and urban youth when seeking to become involved.
- Discussions have taken place on the possibility of gathering a working group of young community leaders together from across the province to identify the issues surrounding youth engagement in the sector.

Goal #10

A mechanism will be established to ensure the accountability of all partners in the implementation of the Road Map.

- The Steering Committee, through the Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat, will continue to release regular updates.
- The original committee was expanded to account for improved regional representation.
- Updates will be provided regularly on the progress of the roadmap goals.