**NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE**

**Table Theme: Resilience and Public Policy**

**Issues and Opportunities**

1. Government funding programs are sometimes too rigid (e.g., reserve funding is not allowed, single-year/seasonal funding leads to cash flow problems, inability to adapt as you go can sap ingenuity, need ability to adapt programs to regional need).
2. Access to decision makers is limited, especially for organizations outside the Avalon Peninsula.
3. The community sector lacks awareness of support programs available across all departments, levels of government and private sources.
4. There is often a lack of communication about status of funding requests and there is a need for better/continuous relationships with departmental staff.
5. Government programs do not appear to regard funding as an investment but rather as an expenditure.
6. There is little opportunity for skills development and training on matters such as risk management, accountability, board governance and succession planning.
7. Incrementalism places pressure on organizations to do more or different things without the benefit of increased funding.
8. Short-term funding does not allow for long-term planning (e.g., succession and program planning, delivery of community services).
9. There is potential to share services and create hubs (e.g., administration, HR, IT) across small organizations.
10. Impact and results can be measured in terms of social return on investment.
11. Government programs and services may be delivered more efficiently and at less cost through partnership.
12. Xx
13. xx

**Group 1**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * Can reemphasize the public service as a group providing services and not enforcing regulations – there has been a shift.
* Government needs to trust groups to manage their funding.
* Need ability to appeal funding decisions.
* Have a 3 month review of projects to allow for renegotiation of funding.
* Programs that have moved from federal to provincial jurisdiction and are now more difficult to access (i.e. JCP). Government needs to be more flexible and find ways to make funds fit the need.
* The people managing the funds need to be better connected with the groups receiving the funds – what they are doing, who they are servicing, impacts they are having, etc.
* Funders (staff) need to assist groups to navigate the programs. Someone who assist with applications, proposals, etc.
* Need to change views on core funding – all funding cannot be for just projects. Need more flexibility.
 | * Lobby government to relax on the expectations on community groups – need flexibility to ensure that funding and programs fit the need of the community group.
* Have a committee that meets every 6 months to bring community groups together to explore ways to work together and to learn from each other. Could be divided by focus area.
* If local community groups could all contribute money and create a regional committee/organization to support everyone (i.e. hire staff to support).
* Community groups should be careful with their spending (i.e. no need to buy things like clothing, swag). Keep the money to spend on core activities.
* Community groups should take advantage of the infrastructure we already have (i.e. buildings). No need for new buildings – share what we have.

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**Group 2**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * Funding applications are too long and complicated – need to make it easier for people to apply.
* Funding will allow us to hire people but no additional resources for them to do their work.
* Application timelines need to match those of the community sector.
* Have to pay bills before you receive funding. Have to show moneys spent along with a report. How can community groups with little or no money do this?
* Volunteers are worn out – need to make things easier. Repeated projects are treated as new. Shouldn’t have to go the complete application process every year. Keep a profile of the community group and the work/projects they have completed to date.
* Should allow groups to make and keep monies made/saved. At least keep a percentage (50%).
* Should also be allowed to spend monies on what is needed not just on what was budgeted in the funding application. (i.e. shift money from travel to other costs for the project).
* Program rigidity forces groups to fudge numbers to make things fit/work. Groups forced to fit the program rather than funds fit the need of the group. More flexibility required.
* All of these issues are also leading to volunteer frustration – people quitting.
 | * A hub to share resources – would make it easier to work together, form partnerships, share staff etc.
* About 20 years ago a person was fired to do the payroll for all community groups that had summer job programs – was excellent.
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**Group 3**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * Government needs to view funding as an investment.
* Applications are too long.
* Points 5, 7 and 8 are most important.
* Need staff to support the work of community groups.
* Create hubs to allow groups to work together.
* Volunteer clusters project should be supported to allow it to start again – would need long term funding.
* Add a line item in budget to have staff that are generalists and can help all groups with all types of funding applications.
* Need to dedicate core funding to community organizations.
* Government needs to start trusting volunteers again.
 | * Volunteer Cluster Project should be re-started – initiated originally by the Community Sector Council. It acted as a hub to provide support to all groups on the Burin Peninsula
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**Group 4**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * JCP funding is too restrictive – needs to go back to the way it was so you can buy materials and resources along with hiring people. Can hire people but don’t have the resources so they can do their jobs and complete the projects.
* Government needs to see the funding as an investment and not just as an expenditure – this is a change in Government culture/mindset.
* Government needs to spend money to generate more money/revenue.
* Government needs to show more respect for the sector.
* Government should create a hub for community groups where everyone can get the information and support they need – owned and supported by a department but community groups are members (i.e. re-establish the Voluntary Non-Profit Secretariat).
* Stop penalizing volunteers for the mistake they make – stop bullying volunteers groups. Help us learn how to do it right and learn from mistakes.
* Help groups deal with director’s liability insurance issues – many people don’t understand the liability issues. Also very expensive so many groups cannot afford it.
 | * Community Sector Council could have regional person on their board – all regions of the province represented.
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