

Pre-Budget CONSULTATIONS

Budget 2017
Have your say

Last year we realized if no action was taken in Budget 2016, our projected 2016-17 deficit would have been \$2.7 billion. Through a series of actions, we reduced that projected deficit significantly, to \$1.58 billion, a difference of \$1.1 billion.

While this improvement is a step in the right direction, our government recognizes that there is still much work to do, and we have been taking action in that regard.

In November of 2016, our government launched *The Way Forward: A Vision for Sustainability and Growth in Newfoundland and Labrador*. The vision will guide Provincial Government actions to achieve greater efficiency, strengthen the province's economic foundation, enhance services, and improve outcomes to promote a healthy and prosperous province. At launch, it included more than 50 initiatives, all of which contribute to achieving the fiscal target we set in Budget 2016 to return to surplus by 2023 while maintaining quality programs and services.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, it is our intention to adapt and add to The Way Forward, and these consultations are your opportunity to shape new initiatives and guide our vision.

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS 2017-18

Our vision is to achieve a strong, diversified province with a high standard of living. The determination and drive of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians will be supported by responsive, innovative and efficient programs and services. The Way Forward supports this vision in four focused areas – A More Efficient Public Service, A Stronger Economic Foundation, Better Services, and Better Outcomes.

The Way Forward is a living document. Each year, our government will announce the actions we will take to help realize our vision. Below are questions in these four focus areas. Your input will help shape government's next set of actions.

A MORE EFFICIENT PUBLIC SECTOR

To create a more efficient public service, government has taken several actions identified in The Way Forward including:

- **Utilizing Zero-Based Budgeting**
Departments are required to build budget requests from zero and justify any continued investment in all areas of operation.
- **Adopting a Flatter, Leaner Management Structure**
Government is reviewing departmental organizational structures, optimizing the number of direct reports to managers and limiting duplication of management personnel.
- **Procurement of the Corner Brook Long Term Care Facility**
Government proceeded with the procurement of a new Corner Brook Long Term Care Facility by engaging private industry to design, build, finance and maintain the building over its lifetime.

In order to return to surplus by 2023, further efficiencies in programs and services are necessary. The Way Forward has also committed government to:

- **Reducing Agencies, Boards and Commissions**
Newfoundland and Labrador currently has 218 agencies, boards and commissions. A target has been set to reduce these by 20 per cent. Government is committed to a thorough review to identify efficiencies, including assessing levels of activity and areas of duplication.

What are your ideas about how to make government and its agencies, boards and commissions more efficient?

A Stronger Economic Foundation

Government has identified a series of economic targets and deficit reduction. The achievement of both is important to creating a stronger economic foundation. Examples of these targets include:

- By fiscal year 2022-23, government will return to surplus.
- By 2020, Newfoundland and Labrador’s annual tourism spending by residents and non-residents will be double 2009 levels.
- Government will assess and promote new areas of mineral resources to stimulate increased activity in the mining sector.
- Government will support increased activity in the aquaculture and agriculture sectors to promote economic growth and increase provincial food security, and is enhancing access to Crown lands to support economic development.
- Government will position Newfoundland and Labrador globally as a preferred location for oil and gas development.

What are your ideas about how the Provincial Government can support private sector growth and create more jobs in Newfoundland and Labrador?

BETTER SERVICES

As part of providing better services, the Provincial Government is committed to:

- **Making a multi-year infrastructure plan publicly available.**
This will outline commitments to education, healthcare, buildings and roads infrastructure over the next five years. The plan will be updated to reflect emerging priorities and it will be released annually in advance of the budget, and will balance fiscal responsibility with the need to address key infrastructure priorities.
- **Expanding primary health care teams.**
Beginning in 2017, our government will expand the number of primary health care teams throughout the province to provide timely access to primary health care supports for individuals to help them achieve optimal health and well-being.

Given the challenges of servicing a small population over a large geography, what are your ideas about maintaining quality programs and services at a sustainable level of cost?

BETTER OUTCOMES

Our government’s vision is of a province where public spending is tied to achieving better outcomes. High levels of investments in the past did not budge many of our most important outcomes. For example, despite increasing health care spending by \$1 billion over the past 10 years, many of our health indicators remain well below the national average.

Government is taking steps to change this through The Way Forward. For example, our vision includes a commitment to adopt a Health-in-All-Policies approach by building health impact considerations into all policy decisions, from infrastructure planning to labour market supports. This approach has also been successful in improving health outcomes in other jurisdictions.

The Way Forward also includes a commitment to strategically leverage federal funding so we achieve better outcomes from infrastructure spending. For example, due to Federal-Provincial cooperation, 142 municipal infrastructure projects across the province will receive more than \$141 million in new funding. In addition, over the next seven years we will leverage \$245.4 million in federal funds for municipal infrastructure, provincial roads, the Trans Labrador Highway, and other transportation projects.

Is there anything else you would like to suggest/add to the discussion tonight that can help the Provincial Government achieve better outcomes from public spending?

Contact Information

Written submissions or general inquiries can be sent to:

Minister of Finance
c/o Pre-Budget 2017
Department of Finance
P.O. Box 8700
Main Floor, East Block Confederation Building
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Submissions may also be emailed to
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For general inquiries please call: (709) 729-3166

