

**Government Renewal Initiative
Channel - Port aux Basques
February 1, 2016**

Q1. Thinking of all of the thing government spends your money on to provide residents of the province with services, what are the three things that could be stopped in order to save money?
To decrease paper used
Reduce energy waste (more efficient)
Resettlement voting to be reduced from 90% to revisit the resettlement criteria
Local service Districts and non-incorporated areas to be looked at and not allow those areas to continue that way. Don't pay taxes, etc. Drain on system – more cooperation
Services to be re-visited to non-incorporations
To look at sick leave policy in public service on health care “due to burnout possible”
To visit the possibility of Lieutenant Governor position, is it necessary?
Find a more efficient measurement of public testing (high school) as it is not efficient
More efficient process for municipal capital works – streamline the process
Reduce travel at all levels in government - use technology
Restrictions on social services – more accessible – more visible in how to get to them
Savings in revisiting Human Resources – resource versus staffing levels
Cuts to school board level but not in classroom level
Privatization of motor registration – liquor stores
Government structure
Eliminate fire services i.e., fire protections ploughs in rural areas (pave driveways) – roads paved, why pay some peoples wells and not the next persons, accountability – go see someone in the department
At a point in this province – awful lot of unicorn communities, nothing to facilitate economic development
More organization – get government money for ideas and then dropped
Redistribute to municipal services
Lot of services take for granted/no level of municipal taxation
If you expect a service then you should pay for those services, everyone has to be responsible for the debt
Government review corporate tax receipts such as political donations, review small business tax credits
Office supplies – sent out paper application waste of paper and postage. Why do you have to wait 2 weeks?
Repetition of processes – child care cooperative – so many different levels
Should be using technology – more emails
Duplication of services and the provision of services - do we need a clinic in the valley?
Why are we putting money into a new hospital when there are buildings available? Put the money into Stephenville and Port aux Basques hospitals
Travelling on highway follow to check the roads before flyers are sent out/passed five ploughs/trucks on days when there is summer driving. Why not send two pickups ahead – wasting fuel/send a guy out at 4:00 am to see if really necessary for those flyers to go out – doing a lot of damage to the roads with flyers – sparks flying – need procedures in place/who decides these things?
By-election costs same as general election – some commitment if MHA resigns they shouldn't get their severance
Look at rural communities – providing boats, teacher for one student, if you choose to stay you shouldn't get the services.
Take for [example] the relocation % to change/majority rules

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Ridiculous when ferry can't go [to isolated communities], they get helicopters [helicopters should not be used]
Student loans/grant system – it is amazing. We need to look at that. People who are getting the grants are not staying
Lowest tuition in the country – young people don't want to have \$30,000 around your neck – we are telling them it is terrible. When are [we] telling them this debt is terrible but if they borrow to buy a truck or house, we say nothing. Student loan debt is good debt should be more education/course on economics
Health care – go see a specialist for a result of a test – 30 second appointment – when there is no need. Why not video conferencing or email? More restrictions on the billing. Why should patient have to drive over [the] highway and miss a day's work? No need.
Dentist/optometrist – why is dentist free for children up to 12 but not eyes? Pay for both of them.
Politicians shouldn't make commitments until they have facts. Wait until you have the figures before saying you are not going to raise taxes
Government service centres – one in Stephenville and one in Corner Brook/One in Gander and Grand Falls. This is duplication – they are close together
Duplication government departments, forestry, wildlife, saving approximately 500 million dollars
Four health boards/combined four school board to two. Two board there now/combine them – board frontline staff
Travel for government employees re: teleconference
Health care/share files/confidentiality is the issue but there should be a sharing policy
Multi-tier management/health care/front line staff
Travel/doctors/specialist/government will fund/pay for the patient to travel – why not cut cost for the specialist to travel
Hold off on the full day kindergarten
Each department taking a percentage to cut to make up the whole
Cannot cut a specific percentage for each department, but rather the whole government
People that did well during good times take a bigger hit financially
Cut the upper management, with big salaries and probably a couple pensions. Do not cut the front line workers. They always get cut first
Keep the younger, new employees and let the older ones go
Bonuses need to be cut completely. No one should get bonuses of any kind
Resettlement of isolated communities. Analyze the efficiencies of servicing those communities and the resources required to keep them there as opposed to resettle
Not a lot of working people contributing to the economy
Sick days for public employees are abused. Don't pay for the first sick day taken, it has to be taken as annual leave. Often one sick day is replaced by double time. Would be the largest saving in health care if this could be fixed.
Swing days instead of more sick days to be able to take them appropriately
No more banking sick days in large quantities, like 106. Reduce total number available.
Paying out more overtime to current positions than hiring a new employee. Look at cutting overtime in excessive
Place more emphasis on preventative health related services. Will save a lot in the long run
Should not cut plows to highways as a matter of safety. Prioritize all cuts
Cut small percentages off everyone and require everyone to be more efficient

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Delay first year kindergarten. Parts of schools are being taken (gym/cafeteria) for these new classes
Stop spending on Corner Brook hospital completely. And do it right
Do not need 5 sets of highway weight scales for all of Newfoundland. Nova Scotia only has two. Only need one in Port Aux Basques and St. John's
No retirement packages should be made available. Severance should be eliminated as well. Those eligible for retirement should be made to
Marine Atlantic ferries rates should be addressed. Those increase in fares are being passed on to the economy of Newfoundland
Eliminate taxes on gases
English School board provincial offices are located in downtown St. Johns with the highest rental costs. Let the contracts run out and move them to more centralized locations throughout Newfoundland
Move government offices to old decommissioned schools instead of renting office spaces. More smart with the rental costs
Offer more medical services in the community instead of having to travel to regional hubs for health care services (time involved in travel and costs) involved in travelling (5 others agree)
Spread out the consolidation of services so they are not all in the same centre such as Corner Brook
Look at the costs of sending individuals outside community versus having services offered in the community
Better scheduling of services such as snow clearing could provide efficiencies
Reduce the red tape associated with starting up a business and the financial costs associated with starting a business (it will return revenue to Government in the long run)
Better ways to pay for services
Leave College of the North Atlantic in Port Aux Basques as it is working
Leave the tuition freeze in place for university students
Look at redundancy in the public service
Have local parks employees handle reservations for the parks site. Could save money by them doing it versus contracting out this service
Sharing of administrative services
Transportation and Works should buy their own equipment instead of renting to save money i.e. a brush cutter instead of contracting out. These machines can also be used for other purpose
Instead of buying winter sand they could screen their own at a cost of \$100-150K per year
Buy their own equipment to access their own quarries in NL
Moving salt is costing a lot of money to move between salt domes. If they buy the proper conveyers to allow for quicker loading and save money in labour, fuel costs usage on their own equipment
Thoughts that Transportation and Works should be able to do much of the needed work on their own at a cheaper cost
The midnight shift for snow clearing was discontinued several years ago. How much \$ has this saved? Suggest discontinuing the midnight shift across the province to treat equally
Get rid of the silos in the health care system. None of the various systems work together creating duplication of lab work, diagnostics, prescriptions etc.
A vote for continuing the primary health care reform committed to by the previous government
We force people to be admitted into the hospital in order to get the necessary health care they require
How much does government cost to operate the regional hospital?
Have more community based medical services

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These regional clinic hospitals are just called hospitals but not offering the services needed
Example: Government spends lots of money on transporting patients by ambulance to St. John's, covering transportation, hostel accommodations, food, to access specialized services in St. John's
Have the service more locally based would be cheaper
The Auditor General did an audit on eastern health revealed that salaries were higher than others. These should be rolled back
Nalcor salaries are extremely high for what they are doing. No one is worth that kind of money
Revisit the administration function and costs at the Corner Brook hospital. There are too many people! Doing nothing but drinking coffee
Do not buy any more paper clips for the civil servants. Straighten out the ones they used last year!
Highway enforcement are driving too big, new Ford trucks. Buy them smaller trucks
Scales are open Monday to Friday but closed on weekends. They are concerned about the small trucks privately owned but missing the big commercial trucks on the weekend
Memorial University has gone crazy!
Our population isn't growing yet we are trying to offer too many programs at MUN. they should send students to other provinces to finish their degree.
Put the hospital in Corner Brook on hold until they can reassess the needs of the region and the cost
Streamline permit, license and fee process. Less paper, more online
Move people out of small communities. No more fly in services
Government spends millions in office rentals. Construct its own buildings
Don't build a new jail in St. John's and look at existing buildings around the province if they can be reused/re-purposed

Q2. Given the financial challenges facing our province, what three things do you think government could do to raise money (increase revenue)?
Plastic bag tax with exceptions for fish and meats – would reduce waste and clean up
Revisit royalties
Show oil but of other revenues
Agriculture
Pressure on federal government to decrease cost
Increase fine amounts
Annual renewal fee and inspection [for vehicles] (safety issue)
Traffic camera to increase revenue for fines
[Find savings at the] municipal level
Legalize marijuana then tax the product – can we grow in NL?
Fee for service for non-incorporated communities
RCMP versus RNC? [Examine whether there is duplication]
Increase tax on cigarettes and alcohol
Follow up on legal with cigarette companies
Of note: though tuition is frozen residence is not, so disadvantage for rural residents
More recycling would increase revenue – tax anything recycling
Fee for services in incorporated areas – snow clearing, road repairs/significant chunk of our land in unincorporated communities

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Government should stop red tape and sell some of the crown land/application shouldn't take 2-3 years
2% HST shouldn't have been dropped/keep all Atlantic provinces at same rate – 15%
Sale of Newfoundland Labrador Liquor Corporation – still get the tax revenues from private sector but wouldn't have the salaries still get the income but none of the expenses
Look at sick leave/relief – give people some incentive not to use their sick leave. If you pay them a % for days they have left they would keep them until they retire. You are only paying a portion which would be cheaper than paying the employee and the relief worker
Student loans/grants – if someone stops in the province good but if they leave it becomes a loan. Give incentives to students to stay in the province
Why not invest in more projects to increase employment so employees can pay taxes – will be long term benefit
Corporate taxes – can it be increased? It has chopped so much over the years. Even raise them to Nova Scotia level
The incentive for new business of a low tax should be gradually increased
Regionalization of services/is it necessary to have all the same services everywhere when so much can be done from a computer
Invest in Centres of Excellence/there are government offices that do fantastic work/let them grow the site and don't fund 15 others to do the same
Escalating fines on gas when the rate goes up or down/don't see such drastic changes
“Goal”: economically feasible to develop a plan with the resources for Newfoundland and Labrador, Stop with the political aspect and stick with the economics. We have forestry, oil, fishery, minerals, tourism, etc.
Put the 2% HST “back”
Sell the assets - revenue
Electronically – driver's license – go to the bank and wait eight weeks
Muskrat Falls – scale back – less investment in the big project. We have people now “who question if they should pay their electricity or eat food”
Tax marijuana when it comes into the province
Raise taxes, HST. Can be ½%, 1%
Increase personal income taxes. Make them higher for those that earn high wages, the top 1%
Increase corporate incomes taxes substantially
More primary processing of our resources, fishery, mining, etc.
Increase fees and make sure they cover the costs of services - must break even
Collect on fines outstanding to the government - Drivers with high amounts owing. Work with the federal government to get avenues to get this money back, take EI
Increase the rent for those in Churchill Falls. They make a big salary and pay nothing to live there for anything. \$75/month and no heat and light
Increase liquor and cigarette taxes
Decrease the salaries and bonuses to executives at Nalcor
Need a contingency/legacy/emergency fund for times like this
Pick an industry and become the expert in those areas [particularly] renewable industries. Build wind turbines in the old closed factories. Tide technologies. Become the industry leader
Grow a private industry and export it. Energy powerhouse. Be a leader and not try to catch up. Have to move first
Privatize liquor stores across Newfoundland and sell franchise fees for a one-shot cash infusion

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Waste management plan is extremely expensive and costing the government millions of dollars. Trucking it across the province is very expensive. Bring back the incinerators with the CO2 scrubbers
Give plastic recycling to private industries, the Chinese wanted to get that from Newfoundland
Sell marijuana and get the taxes from it. That would be a significant income like Colorado
Casino isn't a good idea
Eco-tourism is a good opportunity. Do more besides tourism ads
Outfitters are happy the Canadian dollar is down to get more business
Don't raise taxes because it would be impossible for seniors to live on fixed income
Review the import export regulations to make [it] more cost efficient to market products and raise revenue
Higher taxes for individuals who make more income and less taxes for individuals who make less income
Reexamining natural resources to see if we are getting best bang for our dollar
Sell marijuana
Increase taxes are going to be a requirement, both HST and income
But don't increase unless government is committed to not spending one more penny
Stop penalizing people who are willing to go to work. This is slowing the economy
Increase the corporate taxes. 4% is very small compared to 17%
Fees will have to be increased
The concept of MCP should be changed to the Ontario Health Insurance Program model to allow for raising more revenue on fee for services
Tax the snowbirds. Tax them heavy. Tax until they don't go no more
Do away with locals fishing on salmon rivers, and catching moose and charge locals the same as the tourists
Increase user fees for recreation facilities, so those who use, pay

Q3. How can government be more innovative or efficient to provide quality services at lower costs?
More use of technology for meetings and presentations at all levels – streamlining services doesn't go to too many levels of government
To look at each department on provincial level to see if positions can be cut (school board for example)
Government spending internally
Union negotiation [should be] more efficient
Better use of technology
Road work - do more permanent fixes as opposed to quick fixes
More collaborative based health care models
Look at "board" by the government [government-supported boards] look at this (use technology instead of travel)
What of leftover budgets (use it or lose it)
Use Information Technology
Use procedures when comes to roads, etc.
Management of complexes – hire more qualified managers/leaders may have been good at previous jobs but not a good manager especially of medical services
Provincial Nominee Program – so difficult a process and it is not working well. This will increase our population – therefore [need more] spending

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Decisions made within organizations without consulting people who understand how a facility works. Higher ups make decisions without having ideas how facilities operate. Bring in a system where we can support/encourage/reward people for suggesting ways we can improve how things are done and ways to save money
Trust leaders at local areas to know how their departments work best
People don't leave their offices but make decisions for something they haven't even seen
Need constant communication between all departments and government institutions
Preventative health needs more focus
Educate students about finances – make it early – lower grades
[Implement] multi-year funding
Base services
Privatize more government departments, would be less wages being paid when things could be contracted out
More focus on sustainability and our resources
Larger businesses hire on efficiency engineers on contracts to investigate the department and make recommendations on how departments can be more efficient. Gives an honest opinion from the outside [consider this for government]
Privacy legislation puts restrictions on the mediums that can be used (i.e. Skype) to deliver services effectively. This requires services to be done in person with huge costs. Must overcome privacy concerns to be able to do it
Does 811 actually save costs when people call and then go on to the doctors anyway. Might actually cost more. If it is an advice line, can we get it from another province?
Can we move fish farms inland? Can we grow more of our own food to avoid security issues and provide food more cheaply. All food comes across the ferry. Opportunity to diversify economy and be self-sustaining. We have the land in Newfoundland to utilize it.
Government must subsidize more than just large scale farming, hobby farms need more support. Local, small-scale farming is needed.
Use empty schools and fish plants to grow seedlings of crops.
Most hay is brought in from PEI for farms. Why can't we grow our own?
Protect farming land and keep it for increasing agriculture.
50-60 years ago we grew most of our own food and now we import 90% [support local food]
Get the fishery back from the big corporations and let small-scale fishers thrive
We always put our money into mega projects, we need to go smaller and sustain ourselves
Growing healthy food and provide to kids to reduce health costs
Newfoundland has a terrible food security program [invest in improving it]
Share administrative services
Less contracting out of professional services
Driver Examiner stationed part time in Port Aux Basques instead of coming from Stephenville
More online services in the future through use of technology
Need to take a look at how health care services are delivered to communities
Do foreign interest groups pay property taxes on land owned? They should be taxed
All land owners should be taxed on land owned in the Province
It shouldn't be so difficult to make changes to the system to improve things
Will be very disappointed if government doesn't do something about its spending problem

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When will the Government of NL speak up against the federal government about the ferry system?
More health care services should be more community based
How much money do we spend doing things, reversing things, then bringing things back again
Our systems are so non-coordinated now [improve coordination]
Technology will advance so we can do more for people to live longer
We can do better planning around advanced health care planning. We should educate people more on making those decisions, and the costs of those decisions. We can keep people alive but it is costly and to what end, or quality of life?
When we build, don't over build or over prettify things
Build simple, not fancy
Look into the welfare system. There's not many places you can go into a food bank in a \$60k pick up
Revisit the home care programs and the support for families
Open the salmon fishery
Eliminate Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Q 4. Is there anything else that you would like to suggest/add to the discussion?
Politicians should make a commitment to get out of the day to day running of government. Why do individuals have to go to MHAs for every little thing? If the system is not working, fix it. There are paid employees for that in the field. Politicians find out why it didn't work and fix it
Tough decisions have to be made by politicians in the beginning
Be honest and up front with people
New government has been given a mandate, this is the time to do it
Stop rotating ministers and changing names of the departments
If you have to cut, don't cut on the back of those who can't afford
Fees have already increased too much. Government is a parasite feeding off small business
The fees that are currently being charged to small businesses are only being wasted by government on other things
We don't have a revenue problem we have a spending problem
Mental illness needs to be given greater attention as it is often the precursor to other health and justice issues
Muskat Falls and Nalcor have wasted 100s of millions of dollars in blunders. Some contractors are paid \$550 /hour for excavators. Reexamine the wages and management for this project. Safety guys are paid \$130/ hour. Work is being done wrong and then re-done again to fix them. Errors are rampant
There are approximately 300 town councils we only need about 100. They are not needed. Local Service Districts are just as good
Get rid of the Rural Secretariat and the zone boards