

**Government Renewal Initiative
St. Anthony
February 2, 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?
More effective administration of health care
Outrageous costs for seniors. Stop government supplement spending. Privacy versus government owned. Affordable housing
Abuse of government vehicles at all levels, driving, decrease cost being spent in travel, ways to save money in unnecessary travel i.e. Stay in Grenfell accommodations instead of hotel when discussing Labrador Grenfell travel
Public Tender Act should consider local business process
Request For Proposals through government
Government process includes a lot of wastage, logos (license plates)
License plates – take them with you, like process in Nova Scotia
Bring back vehicle safety inspections – generates revenue, takes unsafe vehicles off the road, taxes
Crown land/vacant government buildings and heating costs? Wasted space?
Cut large bonuses
Take prison off the radar and invest in seniors
Oil heated schools not in use – sell schools, alternate use, more tax revenue
Cease maintenance of derelict buildings
Housing (rentals) shortage, use vacant government buildings for temporary accommodations
Stop duplication – St. Anthony hospital not being used to full capacity – patients sent to larger centres needlessly
Audit for redundancy in government departments inefficiencies (could lead to increase in money)
Municipal projects – redundancies. Multiple towns hiring same resources could be consolidated. Regional governance
Offer resettlement to more communities
Use teleconferences rather than travel
Longer term driver's licenses
Stop paying for services of Local Service Districts and unincorporated communities. Charge them for these services
More coordination of travel expense
Cuts from the School Board office, not the classroom
Vacant schools need to be let go
How much does government spend on road maintenance and snow clearing for unincorporated communities?
Look into overtime in the healthcare
Review the per diem and travel claims of public servants and politicians to reflect the financial status of the province
Review of corporate tax credit
A revamp of the MHA pension plan
Community resettlement should be 50% of population
Government has to stop taking government services from one area and moving them to another
Reduction in number of health boards (i.e. Alberta has 1, we have 4) – send to closest hospital for services
Privatization of services i.e. air ambulance should be explored

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Reduce baby bonus "\$1000" or income based, include housing costs
Embrace technology for meetings, travel reduction
Hiring under health care – i.e. locum Doctors and nurses. More effort in full time staff instead of casual or locum
Reduce over time to employees and hire permanent staff
Avail of local staffing and services when possible
Projects for funding need to be designed consulted by engineer, increase fees and costs "needs to be reviewed" [cut down on these costs]
Licensing be available at local stores, etc. like some license. Combine licenses in one. Small game licenses
Muskrat Falls very high labour costs, maybe could be reduced. Review of Nalcor
User fees for health care services
Crown corporations – no bonuses to managers
Have dollars to run the program, not just for wages – a project can't work without materials to do the work
Healthcare – productivity too low "not in your job description". Revamp policies –meetings too much red tape
Management are too many taking front line workers and putting them into manager position – many managers and no one in charge
Nalcor – sell shares in Nalcor – should there not be a cap on their offered salaries?
Empty schools being heated – why?
Empty schools in general
Locums – if you're paid more to come as a locum why would you stay? [Should] not [be] allowed to pay more
Boards – one medical board
Stop public inquiries
Stop feasibility studies
Why redo plan for or study for Corner Brook hospital?
Social services recipients should be made to go to work (looking for employment, but not working) able bodies
Social services – too easy to get, hard to get disability
Nalcor – Muskrat Falls \$s is the elephant in [the] room. Revenue will not be able [to] create money
Lots of people on fixed income will have hardship to pay bills (as result of Muskrat Falls)
Lots of Nalcor vehicles around the project
Housekeeping with regard to government employees – too many [cut government employees]
Wages at Muskrat Falls are too high
Both Muskrat Falls and housekeeping with government would stop a lot of wastage
Look at the \$'s of using overtime in the healthcare sector, as compared to new hires
Also make the services reduced by using over time (health sector). Need to work on retention in health care
Cost of food at Muskrat Falls is too much. Not being best use of government \$'s
Cost of food at Muskrat Falls – employees should pay for their food
Trim the MHAs pay and pensions. No pot of gold at end of rainbow
Look at cost effectiveness of home care work as compared to in the hospital or long term care

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More family members that can take care of their families that need homecare
Health care cannot be trimmed with aging population
Administration at the healthcare system – but more admin people there
Borrow all we need – what difference does it make how much we owe!

Q2. Given the financial challenges facing our province, what three things do you think government could do to raise money (increase revenue)?
Selling off government buildings, vacant land and crown assets
Bringing back vehicle safety inspections will generate revenue
Increase fees – 2% HST
Tourism – entice visitors; special rates on ferry; encourage
Giving back rebates
Larger health center in Southern Labrador – eliminate four small health clinics, cost benefits of having one large center versus four clinics; nurse practitioners versus family physician; invest in quality care
Abuse of sick time
Local taxation for unincorporated areas, would have fund municipalities or reduce unfairness
Economic stimulus
Increase tax on corporations, high income earners
“Minimum income”
Sugar tax
Has to be an increase in tax
Tax decrease [for] lower income families, increase their spending
Layoffs will decrease spending, government revenue
Don't reduce spending power of individuals
Revitalize forestry, not being used, would make money unless it rots
Agriculture, food security
Increase gas tax to recover room – used to paying it (higher prices) would rather pay 2\$ per litre than the alternative
Change Local Service Districts and unincorporated communities property tax
Increase HST to 15%
Raise sin taxes
Raise corporate income tax
Allow cabin owners to purchase land pursue illegal cabin owners
Put money into roads on the Northern Peninsula it will generate more revenue in tourism dollars
Create a crown corporation under transportation and work to do their own paving and road work
Lobby federal government to reinstate the Northern Tax Allowance (NL'ers would have more money to spend)
Diversify economy – multi species fisheries
Raise taxes HST
Increase license fees
Increase taxation on upper class
More utilization of our resources, have more gainfully employed people – forestry, fishery

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Review social services programs and try fast track them to federally funded programs, i.e. EI
Tourism – marketing
Any mega project, more privatization of projects instead government footing the bill
Increase revenue or royalties on resources i.e. fishery, mining and forestry
Agriculture – [should be] expanded
Increase benefits to use of resources
Minimum processing requirements for all resource. Needs to be reviewed to get increased benefits based on market dictates. Have a guiding principle on processing requirements
Provincial buildings need to be disposed of that are not necessary
Consolidate government offices/buildings
Wage decrease for provincial employees
Eliminate bonuses for Nalcor Board
Toll gated Strait of Belle Isle tunnel – fixed link
Nalcor – sell shares
Keep the payout rebate in a share option to be paid out at a later time – NL Hydro
Keep your own license plate and keep renewing it
Raise taxes and fees
Motor Registration – sell departments to collections agencies to raise money
Time limit for corporate companies have to pay back loans – no loans to be forgotten
Gas taxes
Keep tax light
Sell off assets
Set up lottery/casino
Corporate tax increases
HST increase (make it small)
One size does not fit all
Tax the rich – not the poor
Use the fishery – more secondary processing done here. Investment by government
Traditional fishery – back to the region to bring back \$ (bring people back to work)
Need to maintain jobs to the fishery
Increase tourism \$'s by getting more people to come here
Government allow the people to start small business, less red tape
Use the plants that are here now
Secondary processing in the forestry
Importing things but we have things here that we can use (ex. Mussels)
Outfitters pay more taxes
Focus on more self sufficient
Small farms grow more products
Tear down or give old schools to local town councils (cut down on heat)
Increase the \$'s for having more kids
Reduce/remove the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises program
Less red tape around crown lands

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Q3. How can government be more innovative or efficient to provide quality services at lower costs?
Nurse practitioner versus family physician, Registered Nurses first assist versus practitioner e.g. Personal Care Assistants versus Registered Nurses for some duties at hospital i.e., sitting constant; more efficient use of nursing staff
Bring back midwives
Move medivac system back to St. Anthony – St. Anthony hospital can take patients that are being flown to St. John’s e.g., office space at orphanage, more efficient use
Talk to the “average joe” to find out how to cost save instead of using consultants. Stop hiring consultants
Fixed link or cheaper ferry rates. Ferries designed for specific routes.
Wind power
Cancel Muskrat Falls
Alternative Energy
Western Memorial “studied to death”. Government has to do its homework better. Get it right the first time
Technology (lower travel budgets)
Teleconferencing at home not an option in areas without broadband. Also impedes education (advanced classes, videoconferencing)
Eliminate service options where online options exist
Assist elderly with training for technology use
Community education classes (College of the North Atlantic) to increase computer literacy
Two schools operating with very low enrollment
Government services (more) should be available at Motor Registration Division office
Full Day Kindergarten will cost too much – studies show not much benefit for children
Improved meditech connectivity would reduce need for dedicated diagnostics, also allows reading results at different facilities. System needs to be better integrated, provincially
Consolidating similar government departments e.g. [Division of] Wildlife can’t handle tasks they used to, need to call in Justice. E.g. Clean moose off highway
Centralize essential services, distribute different elements, everyone has something
Inefficiencies in health – top heavy – look at management structure
Long term care – don’t be afraid to spend a little in short term to save more down the road
The “entire” health care system needs to be reviewed (not cut services) but look for innovative ways to save and still provide services. Locals and established health communities of each region must be engaged in this process
One school board to be closed out, given to town or community group to use
Revisit travel for training in the health care professionals
Health boards meetings should be localized
There has to be an inter-departmental committee formed to deal with residential and commercial development within and outside of municipal boundaries. This committee needs representatives from Service NL, Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, Council and Crown Lands
Bring the Air Ambulance back to St. Anthony (Cost of operation in Goose Bay versus cost in St. Anthony)
Secondary processing of the fisheries
Fixed link across the Straits charge a toll, it would pay for itself
Eliminating locums in favour of effective recruiting

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Streamline municipal funding. Faster turn arounds
Reduce bureaucracy/red tape
Municipalities share resources, i.e. buildings, etc.
Regionalization of communities and/or services
Consolidating a lot of services for small communities
Cut members' pensions – reduce to \$ of regular worker
Equal taxation for everyone in province regardless of where [they] live, i.e. in municipality or Local Service District
Establishing service fee for snow clearing for Local Service Districts
Disabilities – build group homes again, less fostering
Private and public sector doing much of the work – privatizing Motor Registration – Liquor Corporation
Privatize as much as possible
Regionalization – bring back bursary to go to school with “peers” – smaller communities work together
Labrador patients go to St. John's – why?
Seeing [patients] by video conference – save travel. Stop bed issues. Medical Transportation Assistance Program – technology already there. More patients here – more revenue – more patients want to come
Medical system – always get back to us
Locums
Technology
Patients flying to St. John's instead of Labrador-Grenfell Health
Medivac team
Employing family member to do health care/home care for their own
More use of technology – better internet and cell service – work will be done easier/faster
More use for online services if better technology available
Use the technology to get results of tests (by healthcare) to a closer hospital
Maybe have a travelling doctor to come do test for all in a region – cut costs to residents
Bring refugees to the Northern Peninsula. They can do anything
Look to others to be more efficient (Iceland model)
Bring back the commercial fishery
Streamline services from doctors – more general practitioners
Look at resettlement for some of the small communities
Regionalization Council and Services
Regional Government in local area. Push it through

Q 4. Is there anything else that you would like to suggest/add to the discussion?
Government cannot pass a Personal Care Assistant off for a Registered Nurse
Stories about people working at Muskrat Falls, not working hard. Disheartening. Also stories of waste, i.e. building having to be torn down and rebuilt
Trucks being gassed up at Muskrat Falls, taken here and emptied – had to hire a gas monitor
Unions shouldn't be able to restrict efficient use/allocation of workers
More small businesses works better than a few big business
No more cutbacks from health care, or anything else if [it] means putting air ambulance back then do it

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Maintain investment to municipalities (especially small Local Service District municipalities)
Stop reduction in pension when turned 65
Listen/consult with people more! Things would be more effective
Make decisions that make fiscal sense not political sense
Immigrants need to [be] encouraged to come in
Glad to have a good contribution to the process (and the ability)
No brochures on the Gulf Ferry – need to be fixed – boats should allow for brochures on there for free
Health care and education is the most important things in region
Don't make residents pay for the problems of government
Legislation around engineers and with town things
Don't put things on the backs of seniors
Mandate retirement age
That the waitlist related to the pain clinic be reduced so that patients do not have to go to the emergency room for years before they get the help they need. The number of visits would be greatly reduced
They should hire more hospital staff rather than be giving staff unwanted overtime at time and a half or double time. People are not working at their maximum potential at that point