

**Government Renewal Initiative
Carbonear
February 10, 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?
Cut back on supervisors
Moratorium on research, give \$ to nonprofit sector to perform the groundwork
Have to look at ferry system, tough to provide services to all
Have to look at criteria for resettlement
More regionalization
County system, shared services between communities – people fear losing cultural identity. This county system would keep town identities, county taxation – need directive from government to go ahead
Greater control on debt. Expenditure control vested in civil service (example, Cabinet Secretariat to ensure large deficits/debt increase do not occur)
Incentives for communities to work more closely together
Transportation – taxis for income support recipients, sometimes travelling [to the] same locations, can't ride together due to privacy requirements
Overuse/misuse of taxis
Methadone programs should not be long term. Cost is \$67,000 per person per year. No program attached to methadone treatments. Pleasantville program was working
Redundancy/duplication of jobs i.e. healthcare – long term facility versus hospitals. Consolidate
Assessment of Local Service Districts. Is it accurate? Is it being done? Property assessment, inequity of property taxes –better way to conduct taxes/property – regionalization – better approach
Projects large i.e. Muskrat Falls, maybe should rethink this project
Do things for the right reason – lands
Public service?
Top heavy
Bill 29 reversed
Crown Lands – revenue – straighten out crown land
Regionalization for fire services
Stop aquaculture
Why have a French only school district with 5 schools?
Unnecessary travel
Look at travel rates of public servants (mileage rates)
Use government owned buildings instead of renting space
Stop full day kindergarten/postpone
Stop Muskrat Falls
Less governance (unnecessary) on private enterprise (i.e. liquor inspections when all documents/licenses have been issues by government departments)
Stop providing services to unincorporated communities! I.e. paying for snow clearing, etc.

Q2. Given the financial challenges facing our province, what three things do you think government could do to raise money (increase revenue)?
Sell crown properties, especially those within municipalities – allow towns and developers to use
Fee on meals in hospitals

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User fees for medical visits. Increase revenue, but also decrease expenses
Property tax needs to be re-vamped
Do not increase HST, look again in fall
Privatization of NL Liquor Corporation
When investing, look at priorities that give a return
Source building materials locally. Always use local alternatives
Diversification is key
Greater utilization of secondary seafood processing
Need to engage federal government to solve Churchill Falls. Use example of federal assistance to Alberta re: oil price decline, "why is hydro any difference than Alberta's oil?"
Pressure federal government on equalization, or find back door to get them to invest in the province.
Get federal government to relax cost-sharing requirements for Build Canada funding (lower ratio)
NL Lottery (not) Atlantic Lottery – can we do this?
Not increase income tax create deficit reduction tax. When we get to surplus the tax is gone
Escalate the tax – gas goes down, maintain at a certain level – above and beyond – have put into fund
Continue to increase tourism initiatives – support tourism, support heritage-focused approval
Review sustainability – not for profit attraction – use what we have
Arts and heritage
Fishery? – federal/provincial quotas – properly done – natural resource
Sell vacant property i.e. Hoyles Escasoni, Grace School of Nursing
Implement an immediate fuel tax/surcharge based on a minimum price per barrel for oil (sliding scale)
Raise taxes corporate
Higher taxes on items such as tobacco products, alcohol, junk food
Incorporate all unincorporated communities and have them implement a property tax to pay for their own services
Increase minimum wage which will in turn result in people spending more money

Q3. How can government be more innovative or efficient to provide quality services at lower costs?
Prioritize services, shared services reduces costs
Take politics out of logical decision making
Consolidate non-profit sector. One hub under one roof, non-profits plus government services
Keep exploring online services
Greater privatization of health care – creates competition, lower prices
Regional councils for regionalization of services – need provincial government representation on regional councils
Acknowledge lived experiences for opportunities to serve on committees, etc. would expand participation outside St. John's
Regionalization for services
Assessment of properties, Local Service District
Management needs to be revamped

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Healthcare – Pharmacy diagnostics, collect taxes, pay per usage if you want to – two tiered system
75% social assistance – take abuse out of the system
Review motor vehicle registration process i.e., driver’s license/vehicle renewal. Every 5 years as opposed to every year. Example kiosks in Alberta, passports renewable every 10 years etc.
Transfer some services such as licensing to incorporated communities, i.e. registration (vehicle) to town clerks/town managers
Speed up process for capital works to incorporated communities
Attach wages/income tax of people who owe fines to the province
Use personnel appropriately
Use inmates/individuals on income support to do road work, etc.
Keep people in their homes longer for home support rather than in facilities

Q 4. Is there anything else that you would like to suggest/add to the discussion?
Need more drop in centres across the province attended by person with lived experience - able to more efficiently share services - streamline process to obtain funding in non-profits and provide three year certainty for funding - saves \$ in hospital stays
Need face to face interaction, not teleconference
Need transition services, support services, not just 21 day program
Need fair and transparent people to deal with our interests
Galway lots, Veteran’s Memorial Highway, Crown Lands – inequity - \$350 per acre versus \$3000 per acre
\$1 million investment on new interchange on Veteran’s is preventing \$50 million in development. Build Canada funding needed, prevented by politics
Do not do Public Private Partnerships (check out what’s happened in other provinces)
Board of trade partnership cost lots of money
Listen to front line staff and their ideas for innovation/streamlining