

Government Renewal Initiative

Placentia

February 11, 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?
Review housing provided to doctors and medical students. Based on the salary that doctors make, it doesn't seem reasonable to pay for housing. Also, other health care provider students are asked to find their own accommodations during field placements while medical students are provided with housing throughout their placements
Review food and travel expenses for all government employees. Put a cap on each individual employee and once the cap is exceeded, review spending. Eliminate the expenses incurred by public service week
Review how contracts are awarded, not always the lowest bid. For example, if a tour has \$150,000 to spend and the lowest bid is \$250,000, there should be a re-tender. This doesn't always happen
Look at putting all day kindergarten on hold
Look at uniforms for staff – do they need to be replaced as often?
Review purchase of government vehicles in each departments
Stop contracting out – outsourcing – use government people
Start at [the] top – government members – advertising, trips, etc. how much [is] being spent?
Want to be careful on what you are trying to stop
Negotiations with unions – raises
Contracts awarded – does government allow for overruns? Try to find – be careful on overruns on contracts – leaves an open door
Attrition – retirement – hire internally – make sure they retire at 65
Delay Colinet high road for a couple of years
Any contracts they haven't committed to? They should look
Get three independent MHAs to check out how people are working within the departments – how they are operating
Combine the health boards and school boards at a higher cost – didn't save costs
Reduce salaries of MHAs
Too much management
Get rid of ferries to the isolated communities – too much money for generators, boats, fuel. Cut down percentage of vote required from 100 – 60% to decide on relocation
Stop Muskrat for 4 years until deficit is paid off
Stop unnecessary paving i.e. Hutchings [Ferryland] district where there wasn't even a pot hole
What purpose does it serve for government to travel to west coast for meetings with all ministers as happened a few weeks ago? Travel costs – flight or drive – flight means renting of vehicles, meals, etc. couldn't [the] meeting take place in [the] Confederation Building?
Excessive renovations to Confederation Building
Stop land giveaways to Danny Williams and anyone else for development – people should pay for it
Why are certain sections of access road of Trans-Canada Highway not plowed on both sides?
Spending capital works money on things that still could be considered new
Ministers of MHA travelling out of provinces and out of country too much – why can't those they are meeting with come here instead?
Sub-standard work being done by contractors and bonds being released i.e. Coleman
Costs more to do the same job as it was budgeted for in the beginning i.e. Coleman
Buy[ing] substandard tools for excessive amounts of money i.e. dialysis at Waterford , St. Clare's or

Health Sciences
Health big problem – centre clinics to decrease emergency visits
Cannot touch education – hurting enough

Q2. Given the financial challenges facing our province, what three things do you think government could do to raise money (increase revenue)?
Re-introduce fee at provincial parks and reserves. For example: Cape St. Mary's, Salmonier Nature Park, Mistaken Point
Increase liquor taxes
Ensure oil companies pay more
Increase corporate taxes
Collect fines from people who owe. Example: municipalities currently pay garbage tax for residents who do not pay this tax
Introduce tax system for unincorporated communities to cover costs for fire protection and social events
Utilize all the unused land in rural areas to check employment in sectors such as farming
Encourage big contractors who make big money [to] invest their money or profits in the province (encourage local investment)
Temporarily increase the HST – sales tax – gas tax is down so it will even out
Fishery – bring back the fishery
Invest in technology and keeping young people here
Encourage people to take part in fishery, forestry and farming by cutting red tape – small business encouraged
Raise taxes
Get federal jobs back – coast guard centre – provide more revenue
Make it easier for small business to start up
Government put pressure on banks to invest in small business
Increase tax
Stop offshore bank accounts (investigate)
Cut pensions to MHA to age-wise and time served. Do the same as everyone else does i.e. 30 years
MHA not draw pension and salary at the same time
MHA treated same as public servant on severance pay issues
Constituents vote on if MHA is eligible for severance pay or not
Using expensive paper or brochures in not necessary. Use newsprint
Hire permanent workers not casual workers. Reduce call-ins, reduce overtime
Nurses being called in as Licensed Practical Nurses and paid at [Registered] Nurse's rate
Put people to work! It creates savings in social assistance, health, justice, etc.
Fix roads – it will increase tourism revenue
Programs we didn't need – Central Medical Dispatch

Q3. How can government be more innovative or efficient to provide quality services at lower costs?
Explore privatized health services such as CTs/MRIs/bloodwork to free up services for everyone, decrease waitlists
Collecting fines and being serious about it
Look at investment in agriculture, the demand for organic produce is growing
Review flex work options for government employees. Why provide office space for people who can work from home simple with a phone and a computer?
Get in Confederation Building and see what works and what doesn't
Investigate the workers from the top – government pays twice as much on salaries than 1996
All the political appointments need to be looked at and possibly cut
Cut civil service down to what is needed
Cut the fat out of the health care system – it's all top heavy
St. Brendan's Ferry for 147 people – check into this expenditure
Nalcor needs to be more efficient
Keep Placentia Depot (Transportation) open year round to reduce practices such as travelling to Whitbourne to pick up a truck and return to Placentia to do a small amount of work and then bring truck back to Whitbourne (expensive on workers also)
Workers are not being effective due to unusual travel habits
Put a dialysis (satellite unit) in Placentia to reduce travel of patients at increased costs. Also, safety of dialysis patients and their drivers (cost benefit analysis) (special taxi's, ambulance etc.) (wear and tear of vehicles)
40 metre bridge - \$5-6 Million spent on old bridge to keep it repaired while building the new one
IT section of government should be put on contract
Find better use for things being shipped out on contract
Find better use for things being shipped out of province (recyclables) i.e. tires, etc.
Doctors on salary work full day and see patients as they become available (patients)
Utilize rural health – i.e. Ambulance Paramedics, Nurse Practitioners to provide health care for routine services. Example: dressing changes, prescription refills, etc.
Talk to people who are in the departments before making decisions, frontline, etc.
Rely on NL – not outsourcing. Farming, fishing, etc.

Q 4. Is there anything else that you would like to suggest/add to the discussion?
Roads – in our area, tourism is one of the biggest sectors. Tourists coming to our area depend on a good road system. The roads in this district remain the worst on the island. Better roads = increased tourism = increased revenue for government
Related to [roads], investment in hiking trails is essential. There are only a few development trails in this striking coastal area. Again, increased tourism = increased revenue for government
Recognize the connection between income and health. Those with the lowest income have the most chronic conditions, mental health challenges, etc. and their low income causes more challenges and that big green piece of the pie [section of the pie chart that represents health costs]
Studies [of costs] spent on projects that government has put off like Corner Brook Hospital

Even if they put some of the excess money we had in good times for these low times we would be in better shape
We should go back to federal government to regain the jobs that have been moved out of province
Tourism should be promoted in and invested in more
Healthcare: health science has been rebuilt three times – always being changed (i.e. tables or chairs)
Parking at Health Sciences
Government has been totally out of whack – doing contracts that's are deemed unnecessary afterward – spending money for the sake of spending money
Don't make up projects for the sake of spending money
Open concept type of planning
Support to home so people don't stay in hospital
Community health – cut down on emergency visits
Best answer to social problem is a job
Evidence based decision making – cut one department [leads to] increased costs in another
One word – sobriety, soberness, sober second thought
Law suit – in Quebec court of appeal to be heard in April on good faith provision in Quebec Civil Code. Provision in suit to claim from when lawsuit started 2010 – Upper Churchill Contract
Stan Marshall formerly of Fortis has now been retired for 14 months. Maybe his bucket list is finished and looking for a new challenge
Health – your biggest expense – more investment in prevention – connection between health and income. Rural services, mental health. In the long run, health expenses will decrease if you invest in prevention and a livable wage. Your biggest users of the health system (chronic conditions) are people living on a low income
25% of government salaries go to core government employees (Confederation Building, etc.)
Poverty = less health = less opportunity = less participation in life
Decrease government contractors and municipalities
Health authority housing – is it used?
Connect government departments – health, Advanced Education and Skills, Poverty Reduction Strategy, education
Address sick leave with unions compassionately and realistically
Housing officer – need one for this area!