

POPULATION GROWTH STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS

SUMMARY OF WHAT WE HEARD

Between March and December 2013, the Population Growth Strategy team of officials conducted meetings with interested parties, including community, labour, and private sector organizations, as well as the general public, to engage in discussions on how best to support population stability and growth in Newfoundland and Labrador.



THE PUBLIC COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PROCESS



We recorded every idea participants shared at community workshops through discussion facilitators and note-takers, who sat at every table with participants, noted every idea on a wi-fi connected laptop and fed it to a main theming table.

At every community workshop, we provided the participants with electronic remotes, which allowed them to vote anonymously during group polls and discussions.



11 community workshops across Newfoundland and Labrador

50+ written and other submissions

55+ meetings with community, business, labour and other sector representatives

480+ participants, including youth, community workshops participants, and representatives of various sectors and organizations

1800+ ideas, comments, and suggestions on population growth



WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF THE PROCESS:

95 percent of participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I liked the table discussion process used here today" during community workshops

95 percent of participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I was provided with the opportunity to have my say" during community workshops



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WHAT WE HEARD: YOUR IDEAS



Our discussions in the community workshops were sparked by four questions on some key areas of population growth:

The labour market
Family-friendly policies
Immigration
Community well-being

On the subject of **vibrant communities**, we heard that communities thrive when they:

-  are **welcoming and inclusive**
-  have **supportive employers** that can accommodate employees with families and/or children
-  have **a range of activities** for children and youth of various age ranges
-  promote and support **arts and culture**



84

Percentage of participants who think newcomers **enrich** Newfoundland and Labrador communities.



85

Percentage of participants who think **immigration is important** to population growth in Newfoundland and Labrador.



89

Percentage of participants who were willing to be involved on a personal level to help build a **welcoming community**.

*NOTE: This was not a scientific poll, but a general, anonymous straw poll of public community workshop participants.

Some labour market ideas that were important to the residents we met:

- *Non-financial incentives, professional development training
- *Better coordination between the education system and the labour market
- *Recognition of prior learning and qualifications for workers from Canada and abroad
- *Regional economic development
- *Focusing on succession planning
- *Boosting efforts to support local businesses



On the topic of **families**, here are the most and least used keywords, based on the number of times they were brought up in your suggestions and ideas:

Child Care	136	Full-day Kindergarten	15
Cost	38	Paternity	5
Flexibility	29		
Affordability	22		
Maternity	20		



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Newfoundland
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