**NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE**

**Table Theme: Organizations, Partnership and Collaboration**

**Issues and Opportunities**

1. The relationship between government and the community sector may not be well understood.
2. Accountability and risk management requirements can be onerous, especially when funding amounts are small.
3. There is a perception that some organizations are treated differently by government (e.g. ability to apply to certain programs).
4. Federal and provincial programs are sometimes not aligned, both internal to each order of government and from a government-to-government perspective.
5. Organizations often have to deal with multiple employees in multiple departments at both the federal and provincial levels of government.
6. Collaboration is happening in each region but it requires time and resources than can take away from program delivery.
7. There is little understanding of what happens to data collected from the community sector and how it is used.
8. Each partner’s respective value, knowledge and capacity is not fully acknowledged or leveraged (e.g., the private sector does not generally understand how the community sector helps it thrive).
9. Increased networking could allow organizations to know more about each other but supporting networking and collaboration is often not covered in funding programs.
10. Government contributes to many organizations across many sectors and could use that reach to help create linkages among them.
11. The public, private and community sectors share many common goals and there are opportunities for partnerships and synergies.
12. Xx
13. xx

**Group 1-3 ( 3 tables)**

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| **Issue** | **What action(s) must be taken to address the issue or seize the opportunity?**  **GOVERNMENT** | **What action(s) must be taken to address the issue or seize the opportunity?**  **COMMUNITY SECTOR** |
| **Group 1:** | * When organizations offer programs and services, sometimes other areas want to partake of these services but they are not paying taxes due to municipal taxation for some communities but not others. Government should impose a tax to all communities so that everyone needs to pay and there are no inequities between communities. * Organizations don’t know until late in the year the number of students they are getting through student programming. This makes is difficult to plan. Government should make these decisions and notify or organizations early. * Government needs to provide funding for a more senior student position that would oversee a region of students. This would create economies of scale for work activities and help organizations work together better. * Can Government alert how many students are in an area and what host organization they are assigned to? * The Amplified project is a model that could be used across the province. * Government needs make applying for funding simpler - streamline processes, application and duplication, and make instructions clearer. * Reduce political interference. | * Community groups need to come together as a sector so that they can act as a collective voice. Community Sector Council may be able to provide this facilitation. Regional collaboration is needed for the sector to be stronger - so the community organizations need to work together more to achieve this model, with the help of a facilitator, like Community Sector Council. * This regional approach benefits the sector and organizations when they apply for funding since funding organizations want to see more collaboration and synergies. * A regional staff person can deal with things for all organizations, e.g. applications for funding. The community sector organizations can come together and hire a project manager between them. |
| **Group 2:** | * Bring all Government departments together that are involved in community sector so that they are working better together to help the sector with their programs and services. This applies to provincial and federal parties. They also need to communicate these programs and services to the organizations better. As well through the funding, both levels of Government should be working together with each organization on funding and projects to ensure collaboration, create synergies, and maximize funding opportunities. * Create an online portal (website/e.g. Bizpal model for the community sector) where all the information is housed so organizations can easily find the contacts and the pertinent information on programs and services. | * Communities need to work together more on a regional basis creating collaboration and acting as one voice – sharing information and developing projects. Government should facilitate bringing organizations together to do this more. Community organizations need to commit to working with their neighboring organizations on projects and planning. * Community sector should engage MHAs in a regional town hall session to discuss ways to collaborate and work better together. * Community sector should host a regional festival that could move locations each year within the larger region. * Educate the communities on the benefits of acting together as a region so that there is less resistance to this kind of change. |

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| **Group 3:** | * Government needs to make accessibility easier regarding programs and services and to the contact staff that are responsible for these programs and services. * Reduce the red tape of funding applications. * Provide clearer and consistent communication and feedback to the community sector organization when they are trying to access Government programs and services. Phone calls are more effective than emails in many cases as one specific example. * Government needs to recognize the regional and rural differences that exist for organizations. This needs to be reflected in the funding applications since there are sometimes more abilities to partner or collaborate on projects in smaller areas. Government should focus on qualitative indicators as well as quantitative ones. | * Community Sector Councils and groups need to update their information more frequently. Community Sector Council needs to have current information from these groups. It’s a difficult task to get organizations to provide this information to Community Sector Council. * Organizations can share any training opportunities/professional development or projects and initiatives with other groups in their region in an effort to raise awareness and promotion. This also creates more networking opportunities. * An example of this being done is one group received train the trainer education because there was a gap   in the region for this training.  Create a board that has representatives from all community sector groups in one particular region. This would create better awareness and education about everything happening in the region. It would also create more opportunities to work together.  Community Sector Council can provide workshops on various training topics in regions but it still needs to be driven by the local organizations in order to have traction in the region. |