**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 A**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * Government is offering residencies at the Arts and Culture Centre with space for me to set up and create. We need more of that.
 | * Collaboration is working well. For example, Grenfell offered me free space for my projects, ARC and Rotary Arts Centre as well were good in giving access to their spaces. We need more of that kind of collaboration. And you have to find out about these collaborations by asking questions. We should be more proactive about sharing these opportunities.
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| * More opportunities for funding for community engagement projects. We get support from Rotary Arts Centre (RAC) and private sector, but need more.
 | * Model true collaboration like we had with “Learning through the Arts”. Teachers, artists, Petro Canada, Government, etc. partnered to make it work.
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| * Improve communication about programs that are available to artists. Need more information.
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| * Focus needs to be on what groups need, not what government wants to give
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| * More collaboration between university and organizations. [what kind of collaboration?]
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| * Need more community spaces to integrate groups.
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| * Some organizations have far better funding opportunities than others. Some groups don’t get the attention and often it’s Avalon vs. the rest of the province. Why do pilot projects have only an urban focus? Need rural too. Just because a pilot doesn’t work in St. John’s doesn’t mean it wouldn’t work in Labrador or rural communities.
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| * Government can help with volunteer burnout – more funding for training so volunteers have skills and know-how to do things better and more efficiently.
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| * All museums in NL had 1.4 million visitors; far more than the Rooms but the Rooms gets half the budget.
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| * Need more funding to hire students.
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| * Funding is key. It’s the bottom line. There is too little funding. Most of it stays in St. John’s. Why not earmark a percentage of arts funding by region so we can pay and support artists locally.
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| * Studies show that every dollar in the arts generate so much more. It makes no sense why we don’t recognize the economic value here. There used to be cultural economic development programs. Museums and archives get very little, while performing arts and visual arts gets the rest. Government needs to measure the metrics here better so funding is allocated more intelligently.
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| * “Learning through the Arts” program here in Western Newfoundland was excellent. It included schools, rural communities, created opportunities for artists. Need to revisit programs like this that worked but exist no more.
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**Group B**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * Business in the Arts NL – funded by provincial and federal governments. This does support private sector in helping community groups meet their needs (e.g. training), but it is so St. John’s-centric.
 | * Need to work together more in terms of marketing. No reason why in Corner Brook we couldn’t have an administrative hub for groups and people to share resources (staff, copiers, marketing, etc.). In larger Canadian cities, there are groups like “Theatre Mom” that broker services for small theatre groups.
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| * Government can do the leg work on all this stuff – creating the web site, collecting the data, footing the bill for hubs/resource-sharing centres, making requirements on the private sector to support the arts and community groups. This would even be more cost-effective than giving groups more money for administrative costs in their projects.
 | * Need a hub for data – listings of what groups offer so that people who are interested in collaboration can reach out to one another. There are similarities across various resources – this would make it easier, would cost less, eliminate redundancies, and would lead to better results. This might require Government involvement too as the current model is not cost efficient and wastes precious resources.
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| * It’s not just getting more money – incentivize your staff to work more closely with the community sector.
 | * Coordination is key, not just collaboration.
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| * Volunteer tax credit and tax credit for businesses to take on groups (e.g., Scotiabank and Vera Perlin collaboration for persons with intellectual disabilities).
 | * Collaboration requires awareness. Need a central location to find out what is happening in a town or region. Where do you find this stuff? Can the Community Sector Council play a role here? Their website has good stuff but people need to be aware and it needs to be user-friendly.
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| * Create a tax credit for organizations that are not incorporated too.
 | * Businesses get tax breaks or interest-free loans for doing certain things. Can we offer them breaks for mentoring or partnering with community group?. They could also cover costs related to marketing, etc. This could be in the Government column too.
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| * Federal government cuts EI for people who say they are not available to work because of volunteer responsibilities. So, if you are running a week-long summer camp for kids as a volunteer, you get cut off if you say you are unavailable for paid work.
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**Group C**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * Permanency of assets is crucial – want to ensure we can keep our staff.
 | * This has to be joint community-government. We cannot do it alone.
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| * We are at the whim of those whose buildings we are in, so we might have to move from year to year. It would be great to have a permanent space and government could fund and facilitate this.
 | * Need a week or night when all groups in one region can come together to offer their programs and activities, as a gateway to Gros Morne, where everyone gets an opportunity to show what they have.
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| * Too many groups have to fundraise every year to deliver their services and afford their capital (e.g., buildings). Multi-year funding and an offer of core funding would help with these issues.
 | * We need to make it easier for Government. We cannot all go to government with the same asks and expect them to coordinate it all. We need to segment ourselves a little better.
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| * Because of cuts, groups have to do social enterprise to pay the bills instead of reinvesting that profit back into their programs and services.
 | * Community resource sector – need to share more across organizations.
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| * We do collaboration and partnership in spite of government. Government is bad at it. They should be encouraging collaborative applications. Need to evolve our funding models and some groups get penalized for going the extra mile (e.g., funding is not equitable).
 | * There is constant partnership, but perhaps we could do more of helping each other knowing we are going after the same pots of money.
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| * Groups have to rob Peter to pay Paul – need the ability to carry funds forward so we don’t have to prepare pink slips every March.
 | * Make use of existing capital assets (e.g., use of vacated schools).
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| * Government needs to recognize that the ability to pay staff a decent living wage is a requirement of any organization’s health. You cannot expect an executive director to do the work at minimum wage. At least a three-year guarantee is needed. Everyone is worried about whether they will have a job.
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| * Funding applications are not set up to recognize or encourage collaboration across groups and with municipalities.
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| * Enable ways for cross-sectoral organizations to apply for joint funding.
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| * It makes no sense that the Flat Bay band council has no core or permanent staff. Everything is project-based or year to year.
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| * There is community sector data – how can Government better flag and capture data pertaining to their sector. This should be an easy fix for Government.
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**Group D**

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| What action(s) can **government** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? | What action(s) can the **community sector** take to address the issues or seize the opportunities? |
| * Digital Communities program was a great success – it had networking built in as a requirement. Need more examples like this. It sparked innovation and it had a three-year commitment. Groups don’t necessarily need more money, but a promise of more money. Can government do more like the Digital Communities program?
 | * We can collaborate more on advocacy.
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| * Can government support leadership in community workers?
 | * Collaboration is a side-of-the-desk task.
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| * There is no transparency on data. We give it but government cannot give us any idea of anything that that data could speak to. Need better amalgamation and coordination of data that is collected.
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| * Share the information on this engagement here today. And show how it was used. Please email today’s results back to us so we know what we said collectively and we can take certain things away and try to implement ourselves at the local level and compare against what shows up in the work plan. I am not interested in knowing what every region said, but I want to know what the 40 people who showed up to this session said.
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| * Community sector is often seen as having its hand out, as opposed to equal partners.
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| * Does Government know how to specify how many people and students we employ? If Government could extract that from the data, they would know our value and perhaps see us as an investment and an equal partner.
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| * Need a data visualization exercise. There are people in Government who could do the work to see and show that we are not a drain doing things for our own interest and amusement, but we actually generate profit and deliver programs that reduce long-term costs for government.
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| * There is a Canadian Heritage program we are thinking about accessing and collaboration is built into it at a regional level. True collaboration needs to be a strong criteria in all programs.
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