**NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE**

**Table Theme: Awareness and Public Appreciation**

**Issues and Opportunities**

1. The public does not view the community sector as a ‘sector of the economy’ and, often, does not understand what services the sector offers, does not have confidence in the sector and values it only for its social contribution.
2. Organizations may be penalized for showing a profit – there is often a view from funders and the public that a community sector organization should not earn money and, if it does make a profit, then it does not need money.
3. The administrative cost of running an organization and the differences among organizations are not fully recognized in funding programs.
4. Some people tend to see the community sector as a job, not as a career.
5. Some in the private sector view the community sector negatively or as competition, especially if government funds are being sought.
6. The public funding model depicts the community sector as dependent on government.
7. There is growing societal focus on social enterprise, social impact and social return on investment.
8. Many people (e.g., youth) have a great deal of passion and a desire to make a difference.
9. Immigrants offer a new source of labour, skills, knowledge and energy.
10. The community sector is a great opportunity for women and diverse populations.
11. The skills required for social innovation must be recognized in order to create and capitalize on new opportunities.
12. Xx
13. xx

**Group 1**

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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 should be able to invest in studies instead of putting responsibility on the community organization, in order to see value. | * More awareness around what the issues are - only so many people to draw upon. Community sector can do this better, however. |
| * An issue of community organizations not permitted to have surplus at end of year instead of returning money – issue. | * Better partnerships between other community sectors would help, however – going for same resources. |
| * Multi-year funding would help. | * Difficulty being heard from policy makers due to history. |
| * Why does Government only listen when a crisis happens? | * Sense of collaboration between organizations. * Possibility a larger group or organization forming to represent and distribute information and services. * Power of collective in order to state case or needs. |

**Group 2**

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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? |
| * Difficult for volunteer/non-profit organizations to access Government with non-money value. Issue with Government. | * Bridging the gap between community sectors by making sure awareness and information is put out there. |
| * Government can/should ensure that organizations do not see each other as competition. Use all parties skills. | * One main aspect of all community sector. |
| * Multi-year funding would help ensure the best in community sectors. For human resources wise, mission wise. All aspects, multi-year would be beneficial. Not necessarily 10 years but 2 or 3 years. | * More promotion from community sector organizations for public to be aware. |
| * Wages for community sectors to get qualified people should be matched with Government salaries – comparable wages. * Make community sector wages/workers able to transfer wages/benefits. |  |