**NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE**

**Table Theme: Resilience and Public Policy**

**Issues and Opportunities**

1. Government funding programs are sometimes too rigid (e.g., reserve funding is not allowed, single-year/seasonal funding leads to cash flow problems, inability to adapt as you go can sap ingenuity, need ability to adapt programs to regional need).
2. Access to decision makers is limited, especially for organizations outside the Avalon Peninsula.
3. The community sector lacks awareness of support programs available across all departments, levels of government and private sources.
4. There is often a lack of communication about status of funding requests and there is a need for better/continuous relationships with departmental staff.
5. Government programs do not appear to regard funding as an investment but rather as an expenditure.
6. There is little opportunity for skills development and training on matters such as risk management, accountability, board governance and succession planning.
7. Incrementalism places pressure on organizations to do more or different things without the benefit of increased funding.
8. Short-term funding does not allow for long-term planning (e.g., succession and program planning, delivery of community services).
9. There is potential to share services and create hubs (e.g., administration, HR, IT) across small organizations.
10. Impact and results can be measured in terms of social return on investment.
11. Government programs and services may be delivered more efficiently and at less cost through partnership.
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? |
| * As a town councilor having people they can phone to get support with regards to applications/recruitment/advising.
 | * The community agencies need to get better at working together. Easy to work in silos. Maybe more partnerships to apply for bigger pots based on a common need/demand by their organization. Pool resources based on human resources and financial need.
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| * Volunteer organizations would like to have someone in Government to advise/support organizations (in general – in many facets).
 | * Generally – just get creative. It is done well historically, just out of need.
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| * Depending on the issue (i.e.: financial management vs. tendering vs. human resources) have a sector of each agency available to non for profits to call upon. A 3rd party for organizations to go to, to support in these processes.
 | * Timeliness of partnerships with organizations and Government. Groups need to liaise more effectively with people in fields of interest. Then programming/funding can be accessed more quickly.
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| * Access to decision makers is limited when it comes to outside of the Avalon. Labrador needs contacts that are knowledgeable to Labrador’s issues/concerns etc. The community sector is unique to the region and holds its own challenges.
 | * Zonal boards were so incremental in supporting community organizations and these need to come back. They were a huge support in planning/coordinating. If not a return of the boards, there needs to be additional funding given to organizations to support them in their mandate and to share resources.
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| * Recognizing the need for organizations to have consistent core funding for overhead and staff.
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| * Recognizing that these organizations exist because of the need in the region. Funders need to recognize or even ask the question to the organization: what is the core mandate? what have you been doing?…and look at how the funder can keep that going with funding offered/provided…along with funding for additional work requested. The growth of the organization is because of what’s been done.
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| * Incrementalism – very hard and stressful for organizations to focus and incrementalise if they don’t know for certain that this funding will be there.
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| * Government to provide more information on supports, such as board governance for organizations that have boards new to these types of processes.
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| * Government should recognize regional disparities.
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**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? |
| * Address the awareness of those who are asking for support. Policy, awareness, group effectiveness.
 | * Feeding off of each other as a group of organizations is very important. Sharing common interests.
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| * Changes in policy. I.e. Single year funding arrangements don’t allow organizations to properly plan for needs/growth of the organization. They don’t want to lose funding. Federal Government allows you to do risk assessment so that the possibility of multi-year is an option.
 | * A coalition of the non for profits and a representative that could become a member of the Chamber (for example) and possibly attend events to share with the coalition at a later date.
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| * If more non for profits were allowed to keep their surplus because the demands on the organization changes from year to year.
 | * If a number of community agencies got together with a similar focus to apply for funding - this could be very effective. Funding sources love collaboration.
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| * A lot of funding for non for profits have audit requirements. Lower the level to a review engagement which would give the funder what they need but would cost less to the organization. Also lowers the time requirements. Then more money you get in that grant could be put towards the services provided.
 | * Not always about funding. Organizations need to learn how to better network. Using the community, using social media. Networking is cost free and is crucial.
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| * How do you get funding to oppose Government initiatives? Many organizations are representing communities that are looking to question initiatives in their own backyard.
 | * Non for profits need to better collaborate. So much is learned when information is shared. This is community led.
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| * Regionalization. The priorities for funding locally/regionally needs to be represented. Public policy needs to be driven by regional priorities.
 | * In remote communities it is hard to access the services than in the larger centres. In Labrador this is a huge reality and these smaller communities need to be included in these collaboration efforts. Even the remote communities need to have representation on the organizations that support them. It is also a great way to relay the information back to these smaller areas. Make sure that we recognize that a centre like Happy Valley – Goose Bay is a hub and the services offered are crucial to communities from the north coast of Labrador. We need to ensure they are aware of them.
* The demographics of this type of collaboration can be costly so it is so important to try and find representation on the ground if at all possible.
* Also very reflective of the issues with urban centres and the need to reach out to the remote communities and provide information, supports and offer collaboration.
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