Open Government Initiative

External Public Engagement Session
Gander New-Wes Valley Regional Council
May 26, 2014
Gander, NL
Purpose of Session

• To provide information on the OGI
• To seek your early ideas, insights and input in the OGI PE scoping-phase
Format of Session

• Information sharing
• Roundtable discussion
• Electronic Polling
My knowledge of Open Government is...

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. Nil
What is the Open Government Initiative

• An open government is one that listens TO and works WITH its citizens not just for its citizens

• Focuses on increasing access to information and data and meaningful opportunities for dialogue and collaboration with government

• Government-wide initiative via cabinet directive

• Office of Public Engagement’s role as steward
Open Government Initiative

- Based on international standards and best practice
- Principles: Transparency, Accountability, Participation and Collaboration
- Open Government Licence
- 4 pillars:
  - Open Information
  - Open Data
  - Dialogue
  - Collaboration
Open information

Open information is the proactive release of Government information, records, and reports.

Open data

Open data is the release of Government datasets in accessible formats for use and re-use by anyone for any purpose.

dialogue

Dialogue means involving the residents of the province in making decisions and developing policies, programs and services.

collaboration

Through collaboration we will bring government, partners, organizations, and communities together to discuss common issues and identify solutions.

Listening – Involving – Changing
Dialogue

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador regularly seeks input and feedback on programs, services and matters of public policy.

We are reaching out to Newfoundlanders and Labradors through a range of public engagement activities to capture ideas, insights and strengthen dialogue. Your involvement is important. With you, we will create the first Open Government Action Plan for our province. We will use online tools including social media and feedback forms, as well as in-person activities like face-to-face meetings and interactive sessions.

To make sure this Action Plan represents the views of Newfoundlanders and Labradors, we will take time for meaningful discussion. Our approach involves your input as we move forward. Information gathered will be shared publicly, and key themes and early actions will be made available for review. Your feedback will help us identify the information of greatest value and issues of most importance to the people of the province.

Details of all public engagement activities for the Open Government Initiative will be listed on this webpage. We will also encourage you to use the feedback form to share your thoughts.

We look forward to hearing from you!
Goals

• Create opportunities for dialogue and participation.
• Support departments and agencies in the development of meaningful engagement activities.
• Enhance understanding of the importance of engagement processes.
Early Actions

• Develop and commence delivery of public engagement capacity-building training activities within the public service.
• Develop a public engagement guide.
• Champion employee recognition efforts focused on “public engagement” practice.
Collaboration

Through collaboration, we will work with partners, organizations and communities to achieve shared goals. We will share knowledge and resources to address issues, build consensus and identify potential solutions.

Our goal is to build a culture of collaboration within Newfoundland and Labrador. We want to create awareness of the value of collaboration and recognize that working together can be a more effective way to achieve our goals.
Goals

• Increase knowledge and awareness of the value of collaboration in addressing complex issues.
• Enhance capacity to effectively build and sustain appropriate collaborative structures.
Early Actions

- Initiate a series of learning opportunities to enhance knowledge of collaboration and build capacity.
- Strengthen and support community-university-government knowledge collaboration.
- Complete an assessment of models for engaging business and labour partners.
- Complete an appraisal of the utilization of partnership brokering (trained facilitators of collaborative structures) in a public sector context.
Open information

Open information is the proactive release of government information.

Government-Wide Information contains information and reports released across government. It currently includes: department responses to general access to information requests; Orders in Council; Ministerial Expense Claims; Member Accountability and Disclosure Reports; and Awarded Tenders.

Information by Topic includes information and reports from different departments throughout Government.
Goals

• Make more information available to citizens.
• Improve organization of information available online.
• Make information sought via ATIPP requests easier to access.
Early Actions

- Develop proactive disclosure policy for departments and agencies.
- Continue to advance disclosure initiatives.
- Create an open information portal.
- Modernize the ATIPP application process.
What is Open data?

Open data refers to the release of government data, with an open licence, which is free of charge for anyone to use and reuse for any purpose.

Open data is provided in accessible formats, meaning that it is machine readable and is structured in a logical way. For numerical tabular files (spreadsheets), some common open formats include XLS or CSV. For text files, common formats include TXT.

For answers to some other questions around Open data, see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Open data products

Products within the Open Data webpage consist of datasets, which are collections of data, and the applications built from these datasets.

The datasets are sourced directly from Government Departments and Agencies and can be tabular (tables of data, such as ferry on-time records) or spatial (based on mapping files, such as zone boundaries or location of hospitals). These datasets are processed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency before publication.

Video icon
Explore Open Data Catalog
Browse the tabular and spatial Dataset catalogs, see our most viewed or most recently updated entries, or search the data sets by topic.

Applications

The webpage includes a variety of charts and maps, connected to individual data sets and demonstrating visual applications of the information.

Open data topics
Goals

• Promote disclosure of data.
• Encourage innovation through the sharing of data.
Early Actions

• Establish open data guidelines for departments and agencies.
• Establish a Government open data inventory.
• Create an open data web portal.
I have had direct experience with...(Select all that apply)

1. **Collaboration** – working with partners or stakeholder groups from various sectors (e.g., non-profit; business; labour; academia)
2. **Open Data** – working to improve the quality and/or quantity of data (data-sets) made available to the public
3. **Dialogue** – working to improve the quality and/or quantity of ways to involve citizens and stakeholders
4. **Open Information** – working to improve the quality, quantity and/or accessibility of information made available to the public
5. **None of the above**
Discussion

What ideas do you have to make GNL more open?
The most recent government engagement event you participated in (aside from today)

1. Within the last 6 months
2. 6 months to two years
3. Two to five years
4. More than five years
5. I have not participated in government engagement event
In my opinion, the top 3 reasons citizens do not participate in engagements are:

1. Uninterested
2. They are too far to travel to
3. Unaware of the engagement
4. Time of event conflicted with my work schedule
5. Don’t feel like input will make a difference
6. Interested but I don’t have the time
7. Other
Discussion

What criteria should government consider in deciding when to engage citizens?
Establishing partnerships/ collaborations is very important to me.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree
I collaborate with the following (select all that apply).

1. Provincial government
2. Municipal government
3. Federal government
4. Industry
5. Labour
6. Volunteer/ not for profit
7. Academia
8. Youth
9. Other
10. Does not collaborate
Discussion

How could government create a culture of collaboration within the province? (outside of funding)
I want/need to access government information and/or data.

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unsure

100%

0%

0%
Have you tried to access government Information and/or data?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unsure
I have attempted to access government information and/or data (online, over the phone, etc) within the last...

1. 30 days
2. 3 months
3. 6 months
4. Year
5. 2 years,
6. it’s been a long time since I’ve tried to access data
7. I have never tried to access data
My experience in attempting to access government information and/or data has been challenging.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree
Open Government Commitment

Over the coming months:

• Comprehensive Public Engagement
• Online tools; social media; feedback forms
• Face to face meetings
• Other interactive dialogue sessions
• Input received will be posted, in a timely manner
• We will determine themes and prepare and release a “what we heard” document
Open Government Commitment

- Public feedback sought on Draft Action Plan
- Action Plan finalized and released publicly
- Accountability Framework for evaluation purposes will be developed and released publicly with the final Action Plan
I found today’s session

1. Informative
2. Uninformative
3. A good use of my time
4. A waste of my time
5. Engaging
6. Unengaging
7. Relevant
8. Irrelevant
9. Other

[Bar chart showing percentages for each option]
I liked the format of today’s session.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree
I had an opportunity to have my say today

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree
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