

Feedback from Open Government Initiative Launch: Have your say Comment Cards

March 20, 2014

A complete and verbatim account of all written comments we received from attendees at the Open Government launch event are provided below.

The sector/group I most represent (but was not listed on the polling slide) is:

- Youth and Seniors
- Education
- Health Care
- Students and Youth
- Students/youth/PSE
- Labour – which represents a large constituency throughout NL. Gov't needs to recognize importance of those groups that are sometimes not “on the list”
- Just a suggestion, but if you are serious about collaboration maybe “labour” should be included in a sector/groups. THANKS (like business/industry)

One practical idea about how to make government more open might be:

- Have Minister answer telephone calls from residents – stop passing the buck to staff.
- Continue to collect and expand data
- Host more events on campus
- Create advisory committee to guide Open Government Initiative
- Host more events at PSE campuses
- Put theory without practice.

One question I would like to see explored in the public engagement sessions on Open Government is:

- Make Minister's accountable when more than 3 complaints go to Premier's Office about a Minister have it placed on public record.
- Incorporate more youth voices
- Gather and make available data on education and labour
- How do we incorporate more youth in the democratic process
- Totally open discussions where officials really listen to what the citizens have to say so “what do you care about that your government has control over!” In my opinion using the “key pad clickers” is not a good way to listen but is gauging responses to decisions or issues that are pre-determined or controlled by decision makers.

Other ways I would like to participate in the Open Government Initiative is/are:

- Put in whistle blower legislation now.
- Advisory committee
- Small focus groups
- Public forums
- Relevant stakeholders need to not only have access to data, but must have input in what data is collected.
- Labour has always stated that social dialogue and citizen engagement is the best way to move forward. We applaud your initiative – we look forward to being part of it.