



Community Sector Council
Newfoundland and Labrador

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Patron: His Honour Frank F. Fagan, CM, ONL, MBA
Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland

August 4, 2017

Ms Suzie Cadieux
Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Cadieux,

Attached is a submission the pre budget consultations for the Federal Budget 2108.

Sincerely,

Penelope Rowe, CM, MSc

CEO



Community Sector Council
Newfoundland and Labrador

Pre Budget Consultation Submission

From the

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Summary

The Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador is a registered charitable organization dedicated to economic and social progress. Founded in 1976 with federal funding as an innovative demonstration program, CSC NL serves the people of our province through research and direct services as a backbone organization supporting 1000's of organizations throughout the province. Our primary suggestions:

1. Continue and increase financial support for youth employment programs.
2. Link employment programs to building career development skills. Career development learning sessions should be incorporated into employment programs funded by the federal government.
3. Form a “roundtable” of nonprofit leaders with on the ground career development experience to consider a strengthened framework for delivering effective and efficient work and career training programs directed at aiding people to become more productive.
4. Continue to improve access to postsecondary education for lower income Canadians through the Canada Learning Bond
5. The federal government should acknowledge more fully the economic contribution of the nonprofit sector and consider offering more support for applied research and development to support innovation within nonprofit “businesses”.

Introduction

The Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador is a registered charitable organization dedicated to economic and social progress. Founded in 1976 with federal funding as an innovative demonstration program, CSC NL serves the people of our province through research and direct services as a backbone organization supporting 1000's of organizations throughout the province. We have a long and productive relationship with federal and provincial governments since our founding and have been a significant contributor to federal policy development as well as delivering numerous programs with and on behalf of the Government of Canada. The Council's CEO has served on numerous federal committees and agencies including as vice chair of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canada.

The community sector is central to economic and social progress

CSC NL's vision is a prosperous and inclusive society that supports individuals, families and communities. Our mission is encouraging citizen participation, the integration of social and economic development and leadership in shaping public policy. We build knowledge, advance thought leadership, foster volunteerism, cultivate leaders, build capacity and develop innovative employment programs for adults and youth. Our work is evidenced-based expanding on research, pilot projects, consumer feedback and trial and error.

Amongst our signature work of relevance to this submission is designing and delivering innovative employment enhancement programs for young people. Of current note:

The Student Work and Service Program (SWASP) in 2016 placed 290 students in employment with 282 nonprofit organizations in 142 communities. Thirty five per cent of the students found work in communities with a population of fewer than 1000 people. The students complete 280 hours of community service and in return earn Tuition Credit Vouchers which can be used at any postsecondary institution in the world. This unique program, now its twentieth year, has enabled 12000 + students to get connected with meaningful employment while encouraging postsecondary education. It has the added benefit of offering youth a wider knowledge of the impact of voluntary/nonprofit organizations on community and personal wellbeing. It is cost effective in concept and delivery. Its impact is huge.

AMPLIFY (Assisting My Potential – Labour Initiative for Youth) which finds summer employment for at risk and vulnerable young people who have employment barriers and offers career development learning sessions as part of their summer employment. Students are placed with private sector and nonprofit employers. As a new pilot still in progress we have already heard from the some of the participants that the learning opportunities have provided them with a new attitude with significant impact on how they view themselves.

These programs which reach out to youth in rural and remote communities and have an emphasis on linking early work experiences with career related goals and activities, play an enormous role in providing a foundation for more productive people. In some instances they catch young people and prevent them from opting out of the world of work. The programs inspire young people to learn about work and the importance of dedication to the workplace and the value of their employers' activities. They also assist the youth with resume building, an appreciation of workplace manners and a motivation to attain success. These are simple, inexpensive, effective ways to prepare youth to be more ambitious and productive members of the work force.

Response to The Committee's two questions

Suggestions for federal measures to help Canadians to be more productive

Early job experience is so important – it should provide a positive experience and an opportunity for personal growth.

We believe that more financial support for summer employment such as the Canada Summer Jobs program would be extremely useful in assisting young people become more productive. The current level of funding seems insufficient to meet employer requests and the number of work weeks approved in some regions is generally insufficient to support genuine learning and work experience.

1. Continue and increase financial support for youth employment programs.

Often the most important skills young people need to learn are the “soft skills” which are not taught in many educational programs but which are of real value. A small case in point: one of the learning sessions the Community Services Council NL offers is how to present yourself – how to look people in the eye and how to shake hands. Simple you think? Unimportant? Doesn't everyone know how to do that? Of current importance is learning the use of social media on your employer's time and caution in presenting oneself on social media. Work place etiquette is crucial but often not learned or taught.

2. Link employment programs to building career development skills. CSC NL recommends that there be a requirement for career development learning sessions by the Government of Canada for employment programs it supports.

We encourage the federal government to maintain and expand the important internship program which was offered for recent graduates through the former Industry Canada (Innovation, Science and Economic Development). Be cautious not to make these internships exclusively in the tech industries. It is crucially important to keep federal measures on social innovation as well. *Social innovation is the process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress.* (Stanford Graduate School of Business).

3. Form a “roundtable” of nonprofit leaders with on the ground career development experience to consider a strengthened framework for delivering effective and efficient work and career training programs directed at aiding people to become more productive.

In accordance with the announcement in Federal Budget 2017 move forward quickly to expand the take up of the Canada Learning Bond, a special feature of the Registered Education Savings Plan which provides financial support to low and moderate income families. To date only about 30% of eligible children are registered. The take up is lower in some regions of the country and especially in smaller communities where access to banking and financial services is limited. Efforts to advance this agenda should be stepped up and federal politicians should be better-briefed on marketing this opportunity to their constituents as they have such extensive reach to Canadian families.

4. Continue to improve access to postsecondary education through the Canada Learning Bond

Suggestions for federal measures to help Canadian businesses be more productive and competitive?

We hold the view that many nonprofits contribute extensively to the economy and often produce and deliver goods and services in a market-like manner. We base this view on a groundbreaking pilot study. In 2016, in partnership with the Department of Economics at Memorial University, CSC NL explored the economic contributions of community sector organizations. In-depth analysis of 45 organizations in the St John's region provided fascinating information about their direct and induced economic impacts. They were responsible for 1279 jobs in the economy (804 direct and 475 induced through local activity of businesses that supply the groups with goods and services). This means that for every two direct jobs in the community sector, *an additional* 1.2 full-time positions are created by their spending. Furthermore, these 45 groups returned \$18m to governments through taxation and their spending was calculated to have a positive impact on GDP of \$74m. Of interest, about 60% of their revenue came from earned revenues, foundations, donations and funding other than the provincial government. See communitysector.nl.ca/f/demonstratingeconomiccontributions.pdf

Frequently overlooked as an integral part of the economy and economic growth, nonprofits, charities and social enterprises contribute extensively and generate substantial earned revenue. The often-prevailing attitude that the only “real” jobs are created in the private sector is short sighted and creates many missed opportunities.

We believe that nonprofits often provide leadership in training future private sector employees. More emphasis should be placed on better understanding the innovation and leadership of many charitable and nonprofit groups.

Greater leadership might be embraced within some federal departments to more fully understand the essential role and contribution to productivity and competitiveness of many nonprofit organizations and their leaders who on occasion take a rather secondary

view of the nonprofit sector. They might be encouraged to learn more about the collective value and economic contribution of the sector and be empowered to provide unencumbered support to social development as essential to economic growth. This would increase the capacity of the nonprofit sector to support and contribute to more productive and competitive businesses.

5. The federal government should acknowledge more fully the economic contribution of the nonprofit sector and consider offering more support for applied research and development to support innovation within nonprofit “businesses”.

In summary The Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador encourages the federal government to fully recognize the nonprofit sector as a major economic driver not just peripheral to the economy and to ensure that its leaders are included as partners in all opportunities for economic and business growth. The sector has incredible knowledge to spur innovation and to enhance Canadian competitiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.



Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador

Speaking Notes for Standing Committee on Finance
Penelope M. Rowe, Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador.
Monday, October 16, 2017 9.00 am.

Thank you for your invitation to join this pre budget consultation.

First, a few words of introduction and positioning of my comments

The Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador is a registered charitable organization dedicated to economic and social progress. Founded in 1976 with federal funding as an innovative demonstration program, CSC NL's vision is a prosperous and inclusive society that supports individuals, families and communities. We support citizen participation, the integration of social and economic development and leadership in shaping public policy.

As a backbone organization CSC advances knowledge, fosters volunteerism, cultivates leadership, builds capacity, and works to reduce poverty and its long terms impact. We deliver innovative employment programs particularly for young people, supporting 100's of organizations and 1000's of individuals and families.

It is our view that the community sector (often referred to as the nonprofit, voluntary or social benefit sector) is **central** to economic and social progress. A strong "civic economy" encourages productive citizens, contributes to the private sector and delivers many programs for public benefit.

We all benefit from community organizations which mobilize millions of volunteers and employees to build healthy, thriving communities. Nonprofit organizations touch every aspect of our lives. They provide sports complexes; deliver health and social services; maintain hiking trails; deploy search and rescue teams, deliver arts, culture and heritage programs; help people with disabilities live more independently; provide services to seniors and youth, and generally improve our quality of life.

The community sector is central to economic and social progress

Now to the specific questions which the committee has posed this year. My comments flow from the submission provided to your committee in August 2017.

Suggestions for federal measures to help Canadians be more productive

Recommendation 1.

We encourage you to continue, and expand, financial support for youth employment programs such as Canada Summer Jobs, Skills Link and Youth internships.

Early job experience is so important - it should provide a positive experience and an opportunity for personal growth.

Greater financial support for summer employment through the Canada Summer Jobs program would be extremely useful in assisting young people become more productive. The current level of funding seems insufficient to meet employer requests and the number of work weeks approved in many regions is insufficient to support genuine learning and work experience.

CSC has placed 12000 + youth in summer jobs with non profit organizations. The majority of these in small and rural communities many in

Recommendation 2.

We suggest that Budget 2018 require that career development learning opportunities be incorporated into all employment programs financed by the Government of Canada.

Often the most important skills young people need to learn are the “soft skills” which are not taught in many educational programs but which are of real value.

Recommendation 3.

Because career development is fundamental to helping Canadians be more productive we suggest the creation of a “roundtable” of nonprofit leaders with on the ground career development experience to co-create a strengthened framework for delivering effective and efficient work and career training programs directed at assisting people to become more productive.

The community sector is central to economic and social progress

Recommendation 4.

In line with Budget 2017, move forward quickly to improve access to, and take up of, postsecondary education for lower income Canadians through the Canada Learning Bond. And increase its ceiling from \$2,000 annually, indexed to CPI.

The Canada Learning Bond, is a special feature of the Registered Education Savings Plan which provides financial support to low and moderate income families. To date only about 30% of eligible children are registered for the CLB. The take up is even lower in some regions of the country and especially in smaller communities where access to banking and financial services is limited. Efforts to advance this agenda should be stepped up and federal politicians should be better-briefed on marketing this opportunity to their constituents as they have such extensive reach to Canadian families.

Suggestions for federal measures to help Canadian businesses be more productive and competitive.

We adhere to the view that a business is an organization or enterprising entity engaged in commercial, industrial or professional activities and that a business can be a for-profit entity or a nonprofit organization that operates to fulfill a charitable mission.

Recommendation 5.

We urge you to augment the collection of key data on the nonprofit sector by Statistics Canada that would enable better policy-making and more effective business planning by the non-profit sector in Canada.

Recommendation 6.

We suggest the creation of a Social Innovation Fund much like the Strategic Innovation Fund but with an emphasis on social innovation to ramp up capacity to address complex problems and to find new ways of meeting needs of Canadians in the face of changing demographics and new economic realities.

Much creativity and many of the solutions to complex problems come from community-based groups. This ingenuity should be better harnessed and further fostered. We are pleased with the formation of the Social Innovation

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and Social Finance Co-Creation Steering Committee. We suggest its work be further supported in Budget 2018.

Recommendation 7.

Finally, the federal government should acknowledge more fully the economic contribution of the community (nonprofit) sector and provide additional funding for research and development to support social innovation.

We know that many nonprofits contribute extensively to the economy in addition to improving the quality of life for Canadians and their communities. Frequently overlooked as an integral part of the economy and economic growth, nonprofits, charities and social enterprises contribute extensively and generate substantial earned revenue. The oft-prevailing attitude that the only “real” or “actual” jobs are created in the private sector is short-sighted and leads to many missed opportunities.

Furthermore nonprofits provide leadership in training future private sector employees. More emphasis should be placed on better understanding the innovation and leadership of the community sector.

In summary opportunities might be embraced by the Government of Canada to more fully explore the essential role and collective value of the sector and the clear appreciation that social development is essential to economic growth.

The Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador encourages the Federal Government in Budget 2018 to fully recognize the nonprofit sector as a major economic driver not just peripheral to the economy. We call for a mindset shift and bold actions to ensure that its leaders are included as partners in **all** opportunities for greater productivity and business growth. The sector has incredible capacity to help Canadians be more productive and much knowledge to spur innovation to enhance Canadian competitiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

The community sector is central to economic and social progress