

Working Together: Engaging Government and the Non Profit Sector

A Presentation to the CFC Conference
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Montréal, Quebec
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Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Our Experience: An Appreciative Exercise
- BC's *Government/Non Profit Initiative*
- Trends and Learnings
- Role(s) of Community Foundations
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Close

An Appreciative Question

Reflecting on our collective experience in working with government.....

Pair up with another person and share your BEST experience of working with government:

- What was “best” about it?
- What helped it go well?
- What did YOU do that helped it go well?
- What did your government ‘partner’ do that helped it go well?
- What good things are still happening as a result?



BC's GNPI: Context, Environment and Accomplishments to Date



Why this? Why now?

- No one sector can do it alone
- Unique, independent but complementary strengths
- NPS has enormous strength and capacity but there are sustainability concerns
- Common challenges
- Record of successful partnerships with greater potential



Context and Environment

- Changing socio-economic environment
- Needs growing – citizens, communities
- Issues more complex
- Changes in philanthropy, volunteerism
- Sector roles blurring, all are needed to address coming changes



Common Challenges

- Human resources
- Capacity and infrastructure
- Financial health
- Increasing need and demand
- Coordinated voice
- Complex and varied accountabilities



Building on Strength

Examples of success in B.C. in collaborating between government and the NPS:

- Homelessness
- Accessible communities
- Healthy living
- Social enterprise



May 30, 2007

Joint Roundtable

- Co-Chaired by Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and CEO, Vancouver Foundation
- 84 attendees, senior officials from government, non-profits, funding agencies and foundations, non-profit sector (NPS) support centers

Roundtable Highlights: Shared Views and Interests

1. Broad common objectives:
 - provide quality community and client services
 - produce tangible, positive results
2. Need to sustain a capable NPS to accomplish these objectives
3. Recognition of the inherent advantages and values that the NPS brings to the table (community linkages, engagement, volunteerism)
4. Potential threats and challenges, three core themes

Roundtable Highlights:

3 Core Themes

1. WORKING TOGETHER

- Can government and the non-profit sector work better together to:
 - understand and respond to strategic needs and pressures
 - adapt to change
 - align policies and priorities
 - plan and deliver service to address complex problems and be more client centered
- What are the terms of engagement in areas of the relationship beyond service delivery, e.g., consultation, advocacy?
- What structures, agreements and processes might support working together in the long term?

Roundtable Highlights:

3 Core Themes

2. PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY, PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

- How to streamline the diversity and complexity of procurement and performance measurement while continuing to ensure that taxpayers receive full value?
- How do funding models and contract terms affect long-term viability?
- What are best practices?
- How do we best balance the need for consultation with NPS in policy and service design with the need to preserve procurement integrity?

Roundtable Highlights: 3 Core Themes

3. NPS CAPACITY & SUSTAINABILITY

- What capacity and support is needed in the NPS? In government?
- What support is available in BC?
- What are the most efficient and effective approaches to build capacity and provide support?
- Are there efficiencies to leverage or gaps to fill in BC?
- What are the options to sustain core administrative capacity and infrastructure?



GNPI Formation

Fall 2007:

- Three joint, co-chaired and staffed NPS/Government Task Forces, one on each core theme
- Reporting to a joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the co-chairs of the May 2007 Roundtable
- Staffing provided by Secretariat, supported by government and the sector

What's Been Accomplished

Early 2008:

- 3 Task Forces: examined current trends, best practices, developed recommendations (80 participants, 20+ sessions)
- Additional Reports commissioned:
 - o Perspectives of BC's Non Profit sector and government programs on the relationship
 - o Environmental Scan
 - o Report on Aboriginal Perspectives

What's Been Accomplished

July to October 2008:

- Steering Committee, Task Forces, staff, researchers met in Victoria to review integrated Discussion Paper and next steps
- Provincial consultation and online survey to gather input and feedback
- Web site live (www.nonprofitinitiative.gov.bc.ca)
- November 19th 'Summit' on the Relationship to be held in Vancouver



Our Learning in BC: NPS Role and Impact

- \$9 billion in revenues (\$3B from province)
- 6% of labour force
- 1.5 million volunteers, 114+ million hours
- Substantial social and economic presence
- Need to adapt to new provincial delivery model – and how to go beyond this to preserve our role as a voice in healthy civil society
- Multiple policies, expectations and accountabilities
- Adapting to new alliances, partners, pressures

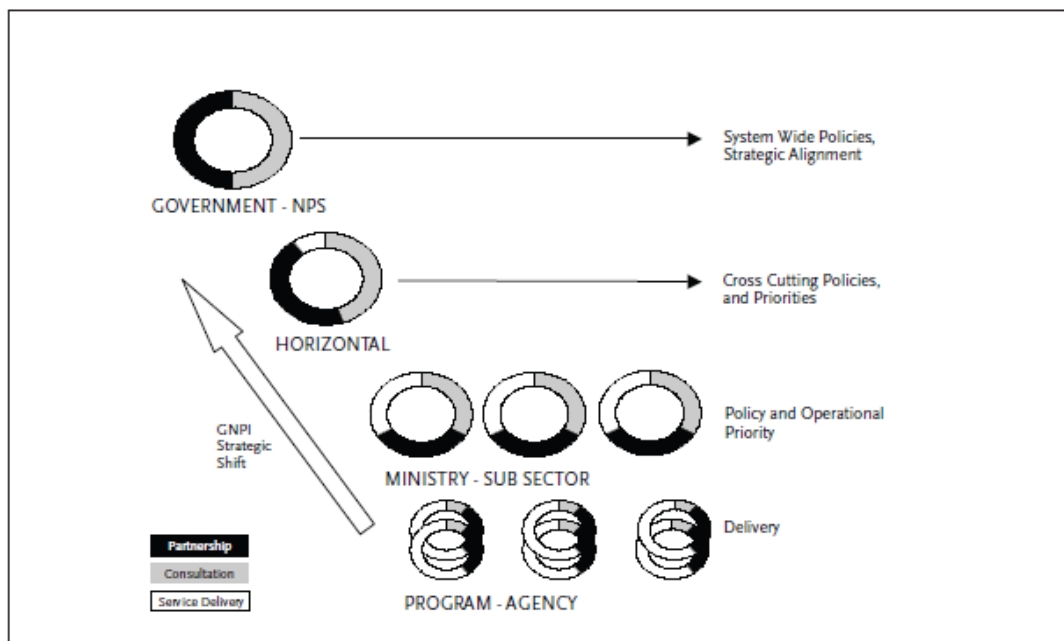


Our Learning in BC: Government Role and Impact

- Ensure public funds are managed accountably, produce desired results
- More emphasis on defining outcomes, developing policy, increasingly rely on NPS to deliver; quality of services funded by government depends on viable NPS
- Recognition that complex social problems require responses that cross traditional boundaries – inside and outside government
- Strategic investment can support stability, enable joint capacity to manage and enhance ability to deliver results

Our Learning: Three Core Roles

- Service delivery;
- Engagement and consultation; and
- Partnership.



Wider Trends and Learning

- Other examples: VSI, Alberta Accord, UK's Office of the Third Sector, etc.
- What are the indicators of success? failure?
- Are we true 'partners'?
- Can we keep these non-political?
- How do we articulate the NPS voice?
- What are the common learnings that we can all take forward in how we work with government, in how others do?



Role(s) of Community Foundations

- Facilitator
- Convenor
- Funder
- Leader
- Partner
- Sector 'voice'
- Can we be 'more than a funder'?
- How can CF's add to the public discourse between the NPS and government: local, regional, provincial, national?



Challenges and Opportunities: *Challenges*

- New minority federal government, ongoing change at the federal level
- Economic turmoil – impacting government funding, foundation funding, philanthropy and volunteerism in general
- Lack of appreciation by some of ‘value add’ of the NPS
- Substantial capacity challenges in the NPS that are tough for those outside to understand



Challenges and Opportunities: *Opportunities*

- Economic and numeric contributions of sector to the economy – revenues, employees, volunteers
- Social capacity of sector can be realized
- Government engagement in community issues
- Realization by some governments of capacity needs in the sector in order to accomplish public goals
- Role for NPS and CF's to take leadership role in complex community and public policy issues, add to public discourse
- Blurring of roles across sectors (public, private NPS)



Closing thoughts...

Thinking back to the appreciative question we asked, the real stories and experiences to draw upon, the indicators for success...

- What have we done well?
- What, where and how can we learn to do better?
- What is one issue we can all work on together?
- What is one thing I have learned here today that I can use in working with government?



Thank you!