



Youth Futures Council Records of Discussion

February 20th, 2017, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m AST

In Attendance:

Special guest: Brad Colwill
and Hillary MacDonald
Sarah Bulman
Moira Shaw

Taya Nabuurs
John Ployer
Nicole Mountain
Robert Larson

Luke Poirier
Alex Dalton

Welcome

The co-chairs began the meeting with a warm welcome, followed by a short explanation of the videoconferencing technology. Hillary MacDonald was introduced to the group as the communications officer who'll assist with YPEI engagement.

Items Stemming From the ROD

Data on Youth Employment

The request for further information on statistics relating to youth employment was sent along to the labour market division within the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning. When available, Sarah will follow up with the Council via a document in the Dropbox.

Update on Research Bursary Working Group

Due to the increase of snow storms, Brad's next steps are to approach the university. He will report back to the Council with further updates.

Engagement Strategy

Update on Resources Available for Engagement

During the organization of YDay, the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning created structures within government prior to YDay to facilitate conversations and outcomes stemming from the event that relate to provincial programs and services. However, following YDay, the Department reflected on what was heard and a strong message stemming from this was that the issue of youth outmigration is comprehensive and would require continued engagement of youth, as well as pre-existing structures outside of government, all working toward a common goal. These two main facets include government (including the Council and the Interdepartmental Youth Liaison Committee) and community (including partners, postsecondary institutions, businesses, not-for-profits, youth-led organizations and youth).

With so many individuals working together to make the conversations of YDay a priority, Hillary, Brad and Sarah recommended to the Council that the “YDay” social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, and the yday.ca website) be rebranded as YPEI initiatives. This will provide a space to share great news stories stemming from the work of this collaborative approach, as well as provide a place for Council and partners to engage with the wider youth demographic.

In terms of the Yday.ca website, this will be a great place for Council to upload minutes from meetings, documents, as well as provide a space for readers to “meet the Council” (headshots, bios, etc).

Decision: The Council agreed with the recommendation that “YDay” social media outlets be rebranded to fit the purpose of the YPEI initiatives. The website will be the first thing updated to reflect this change. Work will begin on preparing a page that introduces viewers to the Council, including biographies and headshots.

Google Document

Last meeting, Council members agreed that engagement with the wider demographic should be pursued collectively. It was agreed that Council members would work online to strategize how this could be done. During this meeting, Council members went through the suggested leading questions on the document to see if any other items could be included.

Next Steps: Update the Google document to reflect the conversation and encourage other Council members to provide their feedback.

Government Youth Employment Programs and Services

Council members have a list of programs and services government offers to young Islanders. The discussion on this was surrounding programs/services Council members are familiar with and whether there is any information missing that they may need. The community bursary program and the Health Care Futures were two programs that Council members were familiar with. It was recommended that the Council should facilitate ensuring that this list is made available and accessible to the wider demographic.

Next Steps: The Council would like more information on the services that the Department of Family and Human Services offer. It was decided that next meeting, the Council would look at the list with the barriers to employment they’ve compiled in mind. The Council will also finalize what the next steps are to this topic.

Informal Pitch Session

Brad led the discussion on this topic. He explained that a lot of attention was spent ensuring there was a two-way street regarding departments and Council members that there may not be room for Council members to pitch ideas on anything surrounding government.

Decision: During the in-person meetings, 15 minutes near the end would be allotted to anyone interested in pitching a concept to the Council. This would be an informal opportunity to make an individual suggestion on government programs and services. Those who know they want to pitch their idea can forward along a request to Moira or Sarah. Otherwise, it will be first-come, first-serve.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be March 18th, 2017 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Atlantic Technology Centre.