



# Youth Futures Council Records of Discussion

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m AST

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## In Attendance:

Special guest: Patrick Perry  
and Brad Colwill  
Sarah Bulman  
Moira Shaw  
Ali Younis

Taya Nabuurs  
Emma Huestis  
Nicole Mountain  
John Ployer  
Kenzie Lund

Robert Larson  
Adam Ross  
Luke Poirier  
Tyler Murnaghan

## Welcome

This meeting was the first official in-person meeting with co-chairs Sarah Bulman and Moira Shaw facilitating the discussion. House items surrounding the space were summarized and Moira led the group in quick introductions, as there were a few Council members who were attending in-person for the first time.

## Youth Employment

### ***Presentation on youth employment by Patrick Perry, Labour Market Analyst***

During the November 2016 orientation session, Council members were asked to create a list of things they needed to know prior to delving in to themes stemming from YDay. Data around youth employment, particularly as it pertains to labour force numbers and employment rates, was requested as important information for the Council to have in order to do their work.

Patrick Perry, a labour market analyst situated within the labour market division in the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning, provided to the Council a presentation on labour force perspectives, employment and unemployment perspectives and employment characteristics for youth 15-29 years. The information he presented came out of the recently Labour Force Survey released by Statistics Canada.

**Decision:** Council members requested further information surrounding employment insurance, seasonal industries on PEI and self-employment numbers.

### ***Continuation of Discussion on Barriers/Enablers to Youth Employment***

During December's conference call, Council members were tasked with the challenge to connect with young Islanders outside of their circle of acquaintances with the question of the barriers and enablers they face that may deter or work in their favor in gaining employment. Council members discussed who they spoke with, the method of engagement they used and the challenges they faced.

Council members in high school found accessing different audiences an easier task. Council members in the labour force or in postsecondary institutions found this exercise difficult, but found no issue with

finding individuals their age who moved off-Island to speak to. There was a consensus among Council members that engaging with a different audience proved quite difficult.

**Decision:** Council members agreed that engagement with the wider demographic should be pursued collectively. Before next meeting, Council members will work collectively on an online document that strategizes how the Council could engage with Young Islanders.

Council members were able to reach out a few young Islanders on the topic. The answers they received were harvested and will be included in the working document “Barriers and Enablers to Youth Employment”. This document will be broken down in to themes for next Council meeting.

### ***List of Government Youth Employment Programs and Services***

One of the tasks mandated to the Youth Futures Council include advising the Premier and Ministers on how to enhance existing youth-oriented programs, policies, strategies and services. To start this task, the Council has received a presentation from the labour market division of the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning and had conversations surrounding the barriers and enablers that affect youth employment.

During this in-person meeting, Council members were introduced to a document that the Interdepartmental Youth Liaison Committee created that showcases a list of programs and services relating to youth employment that the provincial government offers. This list does not include small-business support or entrepreneurship programs, nor does it include high school student transitional programs and services and student financial awards, as these topics will be explored at a later time. This working document will assist the Council in identifying gaps to programs and services and will be used often in the creation of recommendations to government.

**Decision:** Council members are asked to review this document. While this document will be used frequently in the work ahead, members have been tasked to take a first glance at it, examining it to determine whether there are any programs they are familiar with, programs they’ve never heard of before, or whether there is information missing that may be needed.

### ***Update on the Federal Government’s Expert Panel on Youth Employment***

The Budget 2016 announced the creation of an Expert Panel on Youth Employment to assess the barriers faced by youth in finding and keeping jobs, and to examine innovative practices used by governments, nongovernmental organizations and employers both at home and abroad to improve job opportunities for vulnerable youth. The Panel’s findings will help the federal government decide how to invest in the future.

To inform their work on the Panel, the Panel members organized a roundtable in Moncton on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Brad Colwill, director of Postsecondary and Continuing Education in the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning, attending alongside Council member Luke Poirier.

Brad and Luke were kind enough to provide a general summary of their day. A lot of the discussions during that day included area-specific barriers youth face to employment, as well as brainstorming surrounding particular themes relating to youth employment. It was beneficial to hear the conversations on a national level, but a discussion surrounding examples of tangible programs would have been an extra value added to the day. The Expert Panel is expected to have their final report out in March, but

have released their interim report entitled “Understanding the Realities: Youth Employment in Canada.”<sup>1</sup>

## Department Consultation

One of the roles of the Youth Futures Council is to be available when departments want input on a preliminary policy development or changes to programs and services. Departments may choose to consult with the Council if the policy issue affects young Islanders between 16 and 29, if there is unknown public perceptions and other information gaps exists, or if there is controversy around the issue or decision. The Council meets in-person every second month and departments must connect with their respective Interdepartmental Youth Liaison Committee member to arrange time with the Council.

As this was the first time the Council met officially in-person, the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning brought to Council an idea that was pitched to its senior leadership team. Brad Colwill summarized the concept and facilitated a discussion.

**Decision:** Reaction to the idea was positive and a working group made up of Ali, Taya, Luke and Adam has been formulated with Brad as chair. This working group will support the Department as it creates the concept.

**Action:** A Council member asked Brad Colwill whether the Department of Economic Development and Tourism have any programs for the development of greener products. Brad will look in to this.

## Discussion on Record Management

During the December call, confidentiality was discussed in regards to sharing confidential information relating to government, as well as maintaining the opinions of Council members in documents that may become public. Sarah led a discussion on whether December’s minutes reflected the expectations Council members had. Council members agreed that the minutes reflected their values surrounding confidentiality.

Transparency and openness were themes stemming from the December’s call conversation around FOIPP. The question was posed whether the records of meetings were something Council members wanted public.

**Decision:** The Council members agreed that there needs to be a way to make the minutes public for those interested in seeing what the Council is up to. How this is done should be included in the engagement strategy.

## Adjournment

Prior to adjourning the meeting, co-chairs asked the Council members questions surrounding logistics of meetings.

**Decision:** Meetings will happen monthly, with either a short conference call or an in-person meeting. In-person meetings will be three hours long, and conference calls will be shorter. It is preferred if meetings are set up routinely (e.g., every second Monday and every third Saturday).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/youth-expert-panel/interim-report.html>