

November 20, 2008

Making Newfoundland and Labrador a Province of Choice for Young People

Approximately 140 young people attended a provincial Youth Summit in St. John's, NL, November 14-15, 2008, to identify common values and actions to make Newfoundland and Labrador their province of choice to live in and work. CPRN organized the Summit for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The input of young participants will feed into the government's *Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy*.

In June 2008, Premier Danny Williams announced a major initiative to engage youth in creating the future they want for their province. In September and October, 484 young people aged 18 to 30, from across Newfoundland and Labrador, participated in dialogues. Sessions were held in 10 centres across the province and in Fort McMurray, Alberta, and Ottawa, Ontario, where large numbers of young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have relocated.

In the dialogues, participants identified a set of values to guide public policy and enable the province, business and communities to retain and attract young people. They also identified actions to move forward in areas important to them, such as education and student debt, business development, and transportation. At the Summit, participants further explored the areas where different perspectives were expressed in the dialogues and developed a more concrete and realistic action agenda. They discussed their proposals with 40 decision-makers from government, the community and private sectors.

"Young people have openly and candidly discussed the challenges they face in the province," said Dr. Sharon Manson Singer, CPRN President. "The discussion produced a set of practical solutions that they consider are critical to their future in Newfoundland and Labrador and the basis of the actions they want their government and other leaders to take."

To learn more about what young people in Newfoundland and Labrador think is needed to retain and attract youth and to read the dialogue **Synthesis Report**, [click here](#). This report was the basis for the in-depth discussion at the Summit. To watch the video, **Newfoundland and Labrador, Province of Choice**, [click here](#). The final report and CPRN policy recommendations will be submitted to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in late winter 2009.