

Think Tank Purpose:

To contribute concretely to the Taking Stock outcomes of identifying challenges, methods and models of resource support and innovation in the sector

Think Tank Objectives:

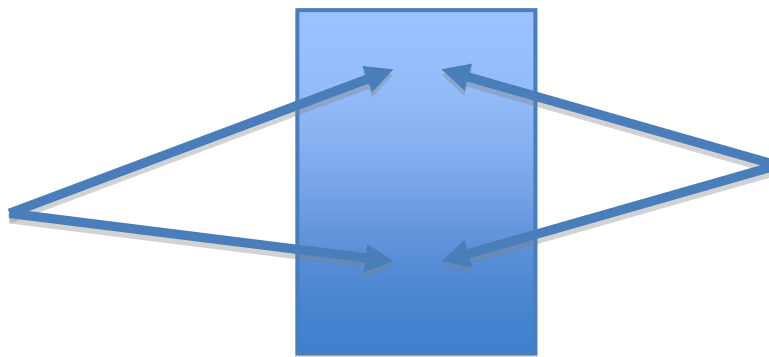
By the end of this session, participants will:

- 1) Determine and prioritize challenges
- 2) Brainstorm innovative solutions to these challenges (and expected results of implementation)
- 3) Define resources that are required to implement these solutions

Project Objectives:

- 1) Take stock of current economic realities impacting child and youth-serving NFP agencies, particularly in the areas of capacity building, service delivery and sustainability;
- 2) Build increased capacity within the Child & Youth sector to address increased demand for services;
- 3) Document and share ways to improve service delivery efficiencies within agencies and/or between community agencies to support agencies facing crisis;
- 4) Identify methods and implement mechanisms to help support and strengthen agencies to achieve greater sustainability;
- 5) Identify the best crisis management models and/or approaches available or being practiced by agencies; and
- 6) Document, analyze and make available project tools and outcomes for application or adaptation in other member agencies and communities.

The facilitation process:



The facilitation process opened up thinking and ideas through questions and discussion. The point of innovation occurred when the ideas were most diverse and at the highest volume (middle box). The most innovative and relevant ideas were then closed through the process of action planning.

Summary of conclusions:

Topic	What needs to happen	Required resources	Expected Impact
Collaboration and Shared Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NACY to review best practices and highlight successful models within and outside Canada and to develop a clearing house of best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop interactive portals (requires maintenance, advertising – could be challenging): check what other agencies have done re cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizations can be more effectively providing service ▪ Field is strengthened ▪ Cost effective

Topic	What needs to happen	Required resources	Expected Impact
Human Resources and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide appropriate training to ensure retention, development of required skills (agencies have access to info) ▪ Identify career ladders ▪ Work with educational institutes re educational requirements ▪ Public education campaign re importance of the work ▪ Training resources available to volunteers as well ▪ NACY allied with Volunteer Canada, HR Council and United Way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to investigate what is already out there ▪ Identify what is needed and collaborate to develop ▪ Networks share training opportunities and ratings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professional development sessions are rated (like hotels) ▪ Access to broad-based training resources ▪ Organizations can be more effectively providing service ▪ Field is strengthened ▪ Cost effective

Topic	What needs to happen	Required resources	Expected Impact
Telling Our Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand purpose of the story, audience ▪ Systematically invite a wide range of orgs in the child and youth sector to share success stories that show impact – house on national website (NACY) ▪ Storytellers need to have choice, clear understanding of how the story will be used and have the right to revoke ▪ Mix personal stories and aggregate data ▪ Testimonials rather than personal details ▪ Train the trainers re storytelling focusing on education, awareness, anti-stigma, vs exploitation, sensationalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Media training ▪ Debriefing, emotional support, follow up, education re rights 	
Youth Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth and service providers work together to change the system ▪ This includes sitting on committees and on boards ▪ Train service providers to work with youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training manuals, rights and responsibilities ▪ Clear job descriptions for youth ▪ Mechanism for sharing power ▪ Partner with youth ally for support and info ▪ Team building retreats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy and procedures are youth friendly ▪ Youth are supported when they are involved ▪ Youth have clearly defined roles

Topic	What needs to happen	Required resources	Expected Impact
Aboriginal Communities: engaging them in building solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine if aboriginal communities feel engaged in solutions building in the child and youth sector ▪ If not, determine what these communities want to see happen. How do they want to be engaged? ▪ Have a dialogue to address the above points 	A gathering (meeting, retreat) engaging Aboriginal communities on this issue specifically.	A more inclusive C&Y sector
Moving the Child and Youth Policy Agenda Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and engage allies (in all sectors) – ALREADY DONE ▪ Identify and publicize impact on everyone –ALREADY DONE ▪ Identify and implement more effective ways of moving policy issues forward (e.g. creating win-win situations for government and nonprofits, effective use of media) – NEEDS TO BE DONE ▪ If policy issues aren't new, identify why hasn't been achieved and new approaches to creating political will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially gathering members for symposium for purpose (see previous column) with government (past and present) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreed upon first step ▪ Action in these areas of social policy that works for both not-for-profit and gov't sectors ▪ Identify what doesn't work (in terms of moving the agenda forward)

Topic	What needs to happen	Required resources	Expected Impact
National Childcare 0 – 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support of a professional agency to market the reframing of childcare ▪ We need to find funding support. This to be done concurrently with marketing/fundraising ▪ Identify National Champions ▪ Hold focus groups of parents of young children and non-parents ▪ Tell stories of everyday people and share these stories via technological initiatives using media ▪ Saskatchewan Campaign (Contact Bev Digout) ▪ Provincial dialogues to collaborate ideas inter-provincially via an efficient communicative means @political and bureaucratic levels (Manitoba example and Quebec model) ▪ Explore barriers to equitable/equal and quality childcare in a broader demographic, specifically focusing on disenfranchised areas (urban/rural) ▪ Guiding principals: What’s best for the child? What’s best for the family unit? 	<p>A cohesive, agreed upon, national agency acting as a single “voice” on the issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change in public opinion around healthcare ▪ Close the educational gap between wealthy and struggling Canadians/Residents of Canada ▪ Highlight the universality of child development ▪ Quality childcare that is accessible

Topic	What needs to happen	Required resources	Expected Impact
National Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning committee struck ▪ Partners = CCSD, CCAAC, Child Care Federation, Atkinson Foundation, NACY, UNICEF, Laidlaw, Muttart, Aboriginal Youth Ors, Child Welfare League, FRP Canada ▪ Initiator = Sue Delaney ▪ Seek feasibility/interest/funding/time-date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional connectors/initiators (ppl) ▪ \$ depending on scale ▪ Mindful of costs and take into consideration communities of practice ▪ Technology for broadcasting info/seminars ▪ Event planner/coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge exchange ▪ Capacity building ▪ Putting learning into action ▪ (see brainstorm flipchart)
Information Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communicating access to resources/increasing resource sharing ▪ Breaking down barriers to access info ▪ Tools to do youth work – how others access the youth voice ▪ Encourage collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who has the \$/info/tools/expertise? (using this knowledge) ▪ A person/org to own the info and communicate it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in access to community voice ▪ Increased knowledge in community ▪ Accountability for the child/youth/voice/community