

Call for Abstract Submissions

2015 GovMaker Conference

Delta Fredericton, New Brunswick - November 23 and 24, 2015

Abstract Deadline: August 28, 2015

U.S. President Barack Obama famously stated in his Open Government Directive: “The challenges we face today — from saving our planet to ending poverty — are simply too big for government to solve alone. We need all hands on deck.”

If you had the power to design New Brunswick’s healthcare system, education system, elder care system, or food system, what would it look like? What could government do to facilitate that change? Non-governmental organizations? Post-secondary institutions? The private sector? The GovMaker conference on Nov. 23-24 is seeking to transform citizens’ relationship with government in New Brunswick.

At the frontiers of 21st Century citizenship and governance, we are seeking stories and experiments that demonstrate how the citizen-government relationship can be different. We seek abstracts for presentations on projects that have contributed to (or show promise of) transforming our institutions by small steps or quantum leaps.

There is a growing movement to open government; to advance citizen engagement and create a more collaborative democracy, while making data open to drive evidence-based decision making and public service enhancements.

An open government strives for transparency, encourages civic participation, and promotes collaboration. The late Hon. Andy Scott had this same vision when he founded the NB Social Policy Research Network (NBSPRN). Structured on the value of networked governance, NBSPRN takes a horizontal approach to policy making by bringing together citizens from across sectors: community organizations, civil servants, policy makers, business leaders, and academics. These types of cross-sectoral networks represent the combinations we need to increase citizen participation and create a more open form of government; one that develops solutions with society, not for society.

The second annual GovMaker Conference will offer concurrent sessions within two streams: 21st century citizenship and 21st century governance. We would like to extend an invitation to participate in this exciting event!

Three types of contributions are suggested:

1. Panel Discussion
2. Lightning Talk Presentation (presentation of 5-7 minutes)
3. Workshop

We welcome abstract submissions (maximum 250 words) outlining your proposed panel; presentation or workshop. Please indicate your selection in the title of your abstract.

Proponents of accepted abstracts will be invited to present during the conference. Those proposing a panel will be asked to indicate a theme and propose a title for the panel. Those proposing a presentation will be invited to present for either 30 minutes or to give a lightning talk (5-7 minutes). Proponents of accepted workshops will be asked to prepare a more detailed outline for the workshop.

All presentations, panels and workshops will be filmed and included online on the GovMaker Conference website. All presenters must register for the conference, costs are not covered (registration and payment can be made after acceptance notification has been received).

Notifications will be ongoing during the review process – however, an agenda will not be decided until after the final deadline for submissions.

Submission Guidelines

Please email your submissions to info@rrps-nb-sprn.ca, in the subject line of the email include: 2015 Conférence GovMaker Conference Abstract submission

Please include:

- Title of your proposed session
- Indication of either panel; presentation or workshop
- Indication of preferred theme: 21st century citizenship or 21st century government
- Abstract of up to 250 words.
- Presenting Author Name and Email
- Name and affiliation for all authors (including presenting author).

We will contact you if we require further information.

About

The New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network (NBSPRN) is proud to host the “2015 GovMaker Conference” on November 23rd and 24th to explore innovative models of 21st century citizenship and governance in New Brunswick.

Last year’s conference featured high profile speakers Beth Noveck, founder of GovLab and formerly President Obama’s Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Open Government; global industry leader and author Paul Macmillan; commerce and privacy expert Michael Geist and the Chief Information Officer of New Brunswick Christian Couturier among many others, offering an unparalleled opportunity to interact with leaders in open data and open government. You can view last year’s sessions and learn more about the speakers at <http://nbsprn.wix.com/govmakerconference>.

By bringing together academic researchers, students, policy-makers as well as members of the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, this year's *2015 GovMaker Conference* will not only lead to greater collaboration in the development of data-driven social and economic policy, e-citizenship and e-governance but will also inspire new and creative ways to tackle some of the province's biggest challenges. The two-day conference will offer concurrent sessions within two streams: 21st century citizenship and 21st century governance.

Join us in this exciting collaboration to accelerate regional interest and explore citizenship and governance in the 21st century!