



The 2016 NB Policy Research Forum

The following document offers a summary of the 2016 NB Policy Research Forum, including the number of participants and presenters, an overview of the content, key participant feedback and a preview of what's to come for 2017. For a more detailed summary of presentations, please see Appendix A and B attached which includes the agenda and the full list of abstracts presented at the Forum. If you are interested in following-up with any of the presenters, please let us know and we would be happy to connect you.

2016 NB Policy Research Forum - Summary

The second annual NB Policy Research Forum held in April 2016 at the Delta Brunswick in Saint John was a full day event with 30 presenters (presentations and posters) including researchers and students (from Université de Moncton and the University of New Brunswick), policy-makers and community leaders and was attended by 47 participants (See Appendix A for Agenda).

In the morning, participants enjoyed a Keynote presentation titled «The Future of Social Policy» by leading Social Policy Expert and Advisor Peter Hicks. Hicks shared insights on reasons why social policy analysts need to look into the future, and how to manage risks associated with such future-looking exercises. Especially relevant was his theory of the «Enabling Society» and the use of technology, big data and statistics in the design, delivery and governance of social policy.

The day also included a number of Lightning Talks (short back-to-back presentations) and poster presentations on a variety of topics including skills and career development, education and labour market integration (see Appendix B for more information). The Forum offered NBSPRN members

Mobilizing Research
Creating Connections
Informing Policy

2016 NEW BRUNSWICK POLICY RESEARCH FORUM

A showcase for applied research & collaborative models of evidence-based policy development.

FEATURING "The Future of Social Policy"

A keynote presentation
with social policy adviser

PETER HICKS



Friday April 29, 8:30am - 4:30pm
Delta Brunswick Hotel, SAINT JOHN



the opportunity to showcase their work, make new connections and to engage with a receptive audience. Find more information here: <http://opendatasummit.ca/2016/new-brunswick-policy-research-forum>.

The afternoon included two panels, the first titled «Info to action: Collecting and Communicating Labour Market Information (LMI)» included panellists from government, community and the private sector to discuss labour market information (LMI), how it is collected, used and shared with various target audiences and how it can benefit New Brunswickers. This was followed by a second panel titled «NouLAB Panel: Solving Complex Challenges». As New Brunswick's public and social innovation lab, NouLAB (www.noulab.org) helps both the public and innovators act together to address the province's most pressing social, environmental, and economic challenges.

The panel featured representatives from the first cohort of lab teams who shared their experiences and lessons learned. The day concluded with a structured networking session (see Appendix B for more information).

Participant Feedback

Based on feedback from the 2015 Forum, the Organizing Committee incorporated a number of key changes including a question period following the lightning talk presentations, a diversity of presentation types (in 2015, all presentations were lightning talks, this year panels were introduced in the afternoon), a focused Forum theme and allocated time for structured networking.

In 2016, participants rated all sessions favourably. 100% of respondents believed the event improved collaboration between academia, government and community and would recommend an NBSPRN event to a colleague. Feedback included an appreciation for the networking opportunity, the

2016 NB POLICY RESEARCH FORUM

WHO ATTENDED

47 PARTICIPANTS **20 PRESENTERS**

WHAT WAS SAID

94%
SAID THEY MADE NEW CONNECTIONS

100%
BELIEVE THIS EVENT IMPROVED COLLABORATION BETWEEN ACADEMIA, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

"WELL DONE!"
"Ce forum m'a permis de me rendre compte de la complexité de la problématique de l'emploi au N.-B. lié à l'instabilité et aux incertitudes du marché du travail notamment"

"Link between keynote speaker and earlier discussion on open data - was productive for those who attended both [events]"

"PETER HICKS - GREAT PRESENTATION"

"GREAT/ORGANIZED/FOCUSED"
"This event was overshadowed by the previous 2 days, but could have been the most interesting of the 3 days"

<http://opendatasummit.ca/new-brunswick-policy-research-forum>



1-day format, the keynote address and discussion, as well as the overall reflection on the role of policies on the lives of individuals. Suggestions for improvement include: sharing supporting documents, tools and resources; increasing the presence of provincial government employees including deputy ministers and ministers; increasing the time allocated to lightning talk presentations and the networking time.

Moving Forward

Planning for the 2017 NB Policy Research Forum is underway. The NB Social Policy Research Network will bring together researchers from the province's post-secondary institutions with policy-makers and community organizations to uncover provincial research capacity. The Forum provides an opportunity for participants to make new connections and build relationships with subject matter experts; key elements needed in developing research-informed public policies.

The 2017 Forum will focus on pressing challenges related to the social determinants of health such as education, income, employment, geography, housing and food insecurity to name a few. The Forum will once again be seeking an expert in public policy to offer the keynote address and will be launching the Call for Presentations and posters in early January 2017.

