BC Government and Social Innovation

● Engaging Citizens and Partners
  e.g. Disability Strategy, Employment Council, Policy Change Labs, Open Data

● Adopting Best Practices in Social Finance and Innovation
  e.g. Community Contribution Corporations, Social Impact Bonds, Tax and Procurement

● Shifting Traditional Programs to Encourage Innovation and Individual Choice
  e.g. Employment Accessibility Technology Initiative (EATI), Community Supports for Independent Living (CSIL), Customized Employment
Employment for Persons with Disability in Canada

- Lower employment
  - 53.5 percent of working age adults with disabilities are employed
  - 75.1 percent of those without disabilities are employed

- Lower annual average earnings from employment income
  - $29,393 per year for people with disabilities
  - $37,994 for people without disabilities

- Higher incidence of poverty
  - 20.2 percent of people aged 15-64 with disabilities
  - 10.7 percent of people aged 15-64 without disabilities
Policy 2.0 – Engagement is Key

- Developing collaborative solutions is critical

Policy, research, legislation

External Stakeholders

Other government ministries/agencies

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Policy, research, legislation
Possible Approach – Change Labs

Policy Co-Creation to Re-align Existing Resources

1. Co-Sensing
   Transforming Perception

2. Co-Presencing
   Transforming Self

3. Co-Creating
   Transforming Action
Engagement with Employers and Community Partners

- Multi-Partner Employer’s Council to improve employment rate for persons with disability
  - Disability Sectors
  - Business Community
  - Government
  - Non-Profits
  - Families

- BC Collaborative - active engagement with Insurers and Employers to reduce unnecessary workplace disability and rapid return to work post injury

- Community Living BC Policy Lab
Adopting Best Practices - Social Finance

- New financial instruments
  - Community Contribution Corporations
  - Creation of the Resilient Capital Social Enterprise Fund
  - Exploring the potential of Social Impact Bonds
  - Community Benefit Agreements and Procurement

- Effective use of the tax system
  - Small business tax credit for social enterprises
  - Individual disability tax benefits (Registered Disability Savings Plan)

- Social Innovation Partnerships to leverage resources and support social enterprises
Promising New Innovations

- Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative (EATI) (replacing listed medical equipment services)
  - Provides the equipment and assistive technology people need to overcome barriers to employment
  - Designed and implemented in collaboration with disability community stakeholders (includes collaborative policy development)

- Community Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) (replacing home and community care services)
  - Person-centred services and individualized funding
  - Provides supports based on a functional assessment, not a medical diagnosis
Promising New Innovations

- Individualized Funding/ Individualized Planning (replacing benefit programs)
- IF/IP for Residential and Care Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities to allow families to plan for support and achieve greater independence, including employment

- Customized Employment Project (replacing day programs and sheltered workshops)
- Customized employment services to British Columbians with developmental disabilities to support employers to carve jobs (key success factor - part-time work while in high school)
Challenges

- Lack of consistent disability data
- Access to technology and sourcing outside medical suppliers
- Partnerships and Engagement requires effort and learning
- People have complex needs and solutions are not always obvious
- Managing community expectations of government
- Community perception that collaborative delivery = “offloading”
- Scaling up successful innovations
Reflections

- Social innovation and partnerships are key to employment gains
- Collaborative policy making to redeploy resources from existing and often rigid programs to individualized funding and planning is key
- Youth focus is key and part-time jobs in high school are a critical success factor
- Assistive devices and technology Essential
- Inclusion is key and success must be shared (not hoarded). Failures will be inevitable as we try new things and collaboration is a basis for shared risk.