

Learner Pathways and Transitions **Guidelines - the Roundtable Process**

The Roundtables

The purpose of the consultation process was to get active and constructive feedback from a diverse group of practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders on the issues raised in the Background and Challenge papers, thereby providing the basis for a synthesis report to senior officials.

Each of three consultations took the form of a day-long roundtable involving a mix of stakeholders designed to cover the topics from a diversity of perspectives.

Some of the issues that were considered in development of the Roundtable participation are outlined below in the event that other jurisdictions and stakeholders wish to employ a comparable consultation process.

Roundtable Size and Composition

Size. Roundtables were designed to include a reasonable mix of people from different “stakeholder” groups while at the same time remaining small enough to allow for a truly interactive and productive exchange of ideas.

Composition. There were seven different “groups” targeted for participation in each of the roundtables:

- Current students (1-2)
- Recent graduates (1-2)
- K-12 sector representatives (either school-level administrators or counsellors) (1)
- PSE academic staff (1-2)
- PSE administrators (1-2)
- Government policy makers (1-3 depending on number of interested jurisdictions)
- Interested external members of the Community.

In each case, efforts were made to ensure that the participants from the post-secondary field included both the university and community college sectors.

“Interested External Members of the Community” was intended to cover a broad range of people, including employers (for a perspective from the workplace), prominent members of the community at large with an interest in education, individuals from policy think tanks and citizen’s groups, academics with a research interest in transitions. Participants were not seen as “representatives” of their respective stakeholder groups, but are invited to provide their personal input.

Roundtable: Scope and Location

Process: It was decided that having each group discuss all of the three sub-themes together would provide for a more comprehensive and wide-ranging discussion. A professional facilitator was used to ensure that each of the three themes received critical attention over the course of a day-long roundtable.