

Appendix F

Group handout: Town hall meeting preparations and reflection

You are invited to a town hall meeting to discuss changing the school year. See below for the proposed changes. At the meeting, many perspectives will be shared from different groups.

School calendar year proposal

The province is considering mandating a change to the school year. The long summer break would be eliminated. Instead, students would go to school all year. There would be four breaks consisting of two weeks each during the year: a fall break, winter break, spring break and summer break.

PART A: PREPARE YOUR POSITION

Whose perspective are you representing?	
What are your major concerns?	
Are you in favour of changing the school year? Why or why not? List your main arguments in point form	
Based on your research, should the government be considering other changes to the school year?	

PART B: PREPARING QUESTIONS

Who will you ask?	What is your question?	Summarize the response

PART C: GROUP REFLECTION

Did you feel your voices were heard during the town hall meeting?

Which groups can be considered the ‘winners’ based on the government’s decision?

Which groups can be considered the ‘losers’ based on the government’s decision?

Did the government deliver a decision that balances interests and helps to achieve the common good?

Was this the best method for the government to get input from the public? Why or why not?

- consider the strengths and weaknesses of the town hall format