



Public Service Week 2024

Social Suggestions & Icebreakers

1. Invite a colleague, or group of colleagues

2. Pick a spot or location

Grab a coffee, go for a walk, find a nice spot outside to sit, etc.

3. Everyone picks a conversation starter or a team building game

(or do your own thing! These are just suggestions and ideas.)

4. Get out there and start socializing!

If you can't decide on whose activity to start with, go by years of employment with the government – longest serving goes first.

Be mindful of space and others around you, have fun!

Starting Suggestions

Desert Island: Each teammate lists 3 things they would like to have on a desert island, and why. Your goal is not to be clever and escape by bringing a boat, gas, and a map – instead, try and bring objects that provide comfort, fun, or quality of life for yourself on the desert island.

Famous Friends: Tell a story about a famous person you've met or have had an interesting experience with/around.

Fast Favourites: Prepare cue cards or small pieces of paper with generic topics on it, like 'food', 'phone app', 'game', 'TV show or movie', 'restaurant', 'clothing item', 'season', 'color', etc. In a speed round, teams flip over one card at a time with a topic, then go around the circle and let everyone name their favorite of that thing.

One Minute Intro: two people have one minute each to introduce themselves to their partner, then you must introduce your partner to a group or other person. Can you remember everything your partner said? Good luck!

One Minute Intro: Pet Edition. Like the game above, but people introduce their pet, plant, or dream pet.

Phone Photo: Everyone shares a photo from their phone's camera roll and talks a bit about it. The photo can be anything! If you don't have a phone photo to share, instead share one fun fact about yourself.

Saying Sayings: Share a common phrase or 'saying' from your home that has stuck with you, and what it means. For example, you might share an idiom, or something your parent(s)/guardian(s) said around the house often.

Two Truths and a Lie: State two true facts and one lie about yourself to your teammate(s). Your teammate(s) must guess which statement is the lie. If they identify the lie correctly, they each get a point. If they do not correctly deduce the lie, you get the point!

Who's Yer Fadder?: Share a funny family story about a loved one. Funniest story wins!

Conversation Starters

Team-Building Games

Alpha-bet you can't: Beginning with 'a', each teammate in succession must say a PEI-related word that begins with that letter. No repeats are allowed. Move onto the next letter in the alphabet when all teammates have said one word with the first letter. "Local" words ('slippy', 'warsh', etc.) count!

Alpha-bet Rules

- Each word is 1 point, and you can steal points!

To steal points: if someone says a word that you think is **not** PEI-related, you can call them out on it, and they must then defend how that word is related to PEI. Whoever "wins" the argument, wins that point. In the case of a draw, the point is not stolen. If someone repeats a word that was already said, call them on it and steal a point from them.

- Keep track of your points and see who has the most "Islander" in their vocabulary.

Coin from the past: Grab a bowl, toss some coins in it (coins should be from 2000's onwards – nickels, dimes, quarters work best). In a group, one at a time, people draw a coin and say one thing they did/were doing in the year the coin was minted. If you cannot think of anything for that year, toss the coin back in and move on to the next person. Go around until the coins have all been taken.

"I'm Going On A Picnic!": In a circle or row, one-by-one, each person must say "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing _____". The next person says the same thing and adds one item. Whoever misses an item in their list is out for the rest of that round. Keep going until only one person is left – they win!

For example,

Person 1: "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing a bottle of soda"

Person 2: "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing a bottle of soda, and a blanket."

Person 3: "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing a bottle of soda, a blanket, and a bear!"

Paper Planes: Everyone is given a page with fold lines for a paper airplane. They write one fact about themselves, and then fold the airplane and toss it randomly toward someone in the circle. Everyone picks up one airplane that is not their own, reads it to the group, and the group tries to guess whose airplane it is.

Personal Logo: *Requires pen/pencil and paper.* Each teammate will have 3 minutes to sketch a personal logo, then one-by-one present your logos to the rest of the group. Discuss the logos and why you drew it that way. For an extra fun challenge, draw a group logo one feature at a time *without talking about it* until it is done.

○ **Example:** Person 1 draws the outline shape, person 2 adds a tree, person 3 adds a sun, and so on until you someone uses their turn to call it complete.

Spaghetti Stack: *Some assembly required for this one!* Teams have one marshmallow, 20 dry spaghetti sticks, and a roll of masking tape, and 10 minutes. The tallest structure wins.

Who Did It?: Similar to Paper Planes, people write a somewhat unique thing they did on a small piece of paper, and crumble it into a ball. All balls are put together. One by one, the team unrolls the balls and tries to guess "who did it". The first person to correctly guess who did it, gets the point for that round. Each person may only make one guess as to who did it. The person who did it must reveal their identity after everyone has guessed.

Word Train: *Recommended pen/pencil and paper – try it with no writing for an extra challenge.* The youngest teammate writes/says a three-letter word. The next person in line must use the last letter of that word to start a four-letter word, then the next person uses that last letter to start a five letter word, and so on. The person or team with the longest word wins.

○ **Example:** "Air" -> "Raid" -> "Dines" -> "Singer" -> "Reserve" and so on.